

January 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.



## UN, Gov't, people with disabilities discuss challenges, opportunities to deliver on promise of the Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind

The United Nations in Ethiopia organized a weeklong 'UN Disability Inclusion Awareness' event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities from 4-8 December 2023.

The event was organized to promote awareness and collaboration among various stakeholders on disability inclusion and exchange best practices, challenges and opportunities on projects focusing on disability.

The event also saw a consultation with leaders and representatives of Organizations of People with Disabilities (ODPs) on opportunities and challenges facing people with disabilities in Ethiopia.



*International Day of Persons with Disabilities was commemorated*

In the consultation, State Minister of Women and Social Affairs H.E Huria Ali and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, emphasized the need to put disability at the centre of any sustainable development initiative.

“We need to put people with disabilities at the front and centre in our efforts towards finding sustainable solutions,” said Dr. Alakbarov.

[Full story](#)

## Bekeshe: Creating a space to empower young girls

Hana and Mertnesh, both 14-year-old girls, attend Bule Hora Elementary School, in the Oromia region. They share a special bond as members of 'Her Space', Beskeshe in the local language of Oromiffa.

"We learned that it's up to us to influence society and our families to treat us as valuable members and believe in us," Hana said.

Funded by UNFPA and KOICA in collaboration with the government, Her Space empowers adolescents and young girls to exercise their rights, learn about sexual and reproductive health, and protect themselves from discrimination, violence, and exploitation.

Twice a week, the girls attend sessions on various topics, including sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and women empowerment. As a result, both girls advocated for better treatment at home. "I am the only girl in the home, and all the household chores were on me. After the training, I convinced my brothers that it was unfair for me to do everything and that they should help. They agreed. I used the tools and approaches I have



**Participants in Bekeshe (Her Space)**

learned at the session to discuss the issues with them," Mertnesh said. Hana also shares a similar story, where she convinced her parents to allow dedicated time for her study and homework.

Misrak Takele, a teacher at the school and the lead for the Her Space program, is proud of the progress made by the girls. "Being a teacher for 30 years, I can say that this program has been the most impactful in empowering girls to have a voice and plan their future," she said. "Both the younger and older girls have shown significant progress through the program," Misrak added.

Hana and Mertnesh are about to graduate from the program as they have attended most sessions. "I am excited to share what I have learned with younger girls," Hana said.

### Her Space program

Each school year, the Her Space program at Bule Hora Elementary School begins with a Training of Trainers (TOT) for the facilitators, who are health extension workers and teachers. The TOT equips them with the necessary skills to effectively facilitate discussions and lead sessions.

[Full story](#)

## UNOPS, Government of Japan hand over water supply, sanitation facilities in Qoloji camp

**"Now my children don't have to walk to fetch water and miss school."**



Nemira Dawd  
Mother of 10  
Beneficiary

UNOPS and the Government of Japan handed over constructed water supply and sanitation facilities in Qoloji camp to the Somali

Regional Government. The handover ceremony was held at the Qoloji Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp on 12 December 2023.

In attendance were H.E. Mustafa Mohamed, President of Somali Region; Ms. Worknesh Mekonnen, Director of the UNOPS Multi Country Office and Representative to the AU; and Ms. Satsuki Fukai, a representative of the Japanese government.

The Japanese government has donated more than USD \$ one million to enable IDPs at the Qoloji IDP Camp in the Somali National Regional State to have better access to water supplies and sanitary facilities.

[Full story](#)



# Ethiopia's 100th anniversary of ILO membership celebrated



## Ethiopia's 100th anniversary of International Labour Organization (ILO) membership was celebrated

Ethiopia's 100th anniversary of International Labour Organization (ILO) membership was celebrated with a National Labour Conference in Addis Ababa.

The conference was organised by the ILO in collaboration with its partners: the Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS) of Ethiopia, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), Confederation of Ethiopian Employers Associations (CEEA) and Confederation of Ethiopian Employers Federation (CEEF).

The High-Level Conference served to commemorate Ethiopia's ILO Centenary by reflecting on the ILO and tripartite partners' accomplishments in advancing social dialogue, decent work,

enhanced productivity and inclusive growth. Additionally, the forum prioritised the agenda of employers' and workers' affairs, fostering a collaborative platform for stakeholders in the world of work.

The Conference saw high-level Government delegates from MoLS, ILO as well as representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the South Africa Development Community (SADC) and diplomatic missions in the country.

Speaking at the opening event, H.E. Ms. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of MoLS of Ethiopia noted that this important milestone confirms Ethiopia's commitment to bring

industrial peace and increase productivity through social dialogue. "The National Labour Conference helped bring together government, employers' and workers' organizations and policymakers to discuss and exchange innovative ideas to improve the labour administration in Ethiopia," she said.

ILO Regional Director for Africa and Assistant Director-General, Fanfan Rwanyindo Kayirangwa, on her part said, "As we celebrate Ethiopia's 100th Anniversary of ILO membership and National Labour Conference 2023, we reflect not just on history, but also on partnerships that have shaped the landscape of decent work and social justice".

[Full story](#)

## Africa Industrialization Day Commemorated in Addis Ababa



**UNDIO Representative and Director of the Regional Hub in A.A, Ms. Aurelia Calabrò**

### UNIDO reaffirms commitment towards supporting sustainable and inclusive industrial development in Ethiopia.

UNIDO Ethiopia together with the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, beneficiary abattoirs, leather sector associations and other partners commemorated the Africa Industrial Day on 21 November 2023 in Addis Ababa.

The theme for the year "Accelerating Africa's industrialization through the empowerment of African women in processing for an integrated market" focuses on the critical role of women-led enterprises in driving Africa's industrialization through processing and value addition, as well as the integration of African markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

[Full story](#)

# UN Women, IOM and partners organize media training on gender-responsive reporting on migration



**Tinsae Gemechu, news editor at Ethiopian News Agency**

UN Women Ethiopia Country Office in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ethiopia, the National Partnership Coalition under the Ministry of Justice and the Global Migration Media Academy co-organized a two-day media training on gender-responsive reporting on migration for over twenty participants including



**Benias Abiy, trainee from Ethiopian Media Authority**

journalists, editors, and media representatives. The training, held in Addis Ababa from 7 - 8 December 2023, aimed to strengthen the participants' skills and knowledge on gender-responsive reporting.

Led by Ms. Sandra Ruiz Moriana from the Global Migration Media Academy, the training included



**Schadrack Dusabe, Deputy Country Representative of UN Women**

sessions on creating understanding about global migration and gender, migration governance in Ethiopia, investigative journalism, introduction to migration correlated glossary, shaping narratives on migration, and approaches on gender responsive reporting including editorial writing and interviewing migrant women.

[Full story](#)

## UN Women, partner's work in rehabilitating CRSV survivor-displaced women showing promising results



**Birtukan, volunteer counselor and Gondar University Staff on supporting CRSV survivors**

"I had to leave with my son, leaving my belongings, my home, because the conflict was intensifying. Raped by fighters, I was fearing for my life. I came to the camp three years ago. There was little support for us there. My son couldn't go to school, because the camp only accommodates primary school."

These are words of Almaz Alemu, 45, who was living in a small town close



**Abraham Kenaw, Women, Children, Social Affairs expert for Azezo district of Gondar**

to Mekelle, Tigray when the northern Ethiopia conflict erupted. She used to make a living by selling food and drinks on a small place she owned. She left the place she called home for seven years and joined other displaced people to live in "Qebero Meda Camp", a camp for Internally Displaced People (IDP), in Gondar, Amhara region.

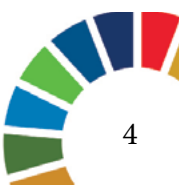
Almaz was one of the 245 women

reached by Good Samaritan Association (GSA)'s project that provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to women and girl survivors who have experienced Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and supported by UN Women Ethiopia.

The survivors got counselling services and basic business skills training in a shelter run by GSA. Almaz was also provided with small grant to start business.

"I got seed capital to start small business selling food, coffee and tea. I started working here eight months ago and earning for sustenance. I am thankful for that. I now live outside the camp with my son, sending him to school. I hope to expand my business and get back to the life I used to have before the war," she spoke.

[Full story](#)



# Restoring women's livelihoods after conflict

The conflict that broke out in the northern part of Ethiopia and came to an end with a peace agreement took the lives of many, displaced thousands of people, and left millions dependent on food and humanitarian aid. Above all, Children, mothers, and people with disabilities are the most confronted ones and still struggling with the trauma of the disaster that completely changed their lives and ruined their dreams.

**UNDP's Peace Support Programme is helping these women to rebuild their lives. The programme is financially supported by the Government of Germany, UNDP core partners, and Funding Windows.**

Senidu Abebaw, 30, is a mother of two who lives in Goshwuha kebele of Habru Woreda. She recalls a happy past when she had a well-furnished home and was able to meet her children's needs.

Unfortunately, Senidu lost her assets and her small business in the conflict, and she recalls, "I have passed through a very difficult time. I lost the resources that I acquired for decades. My children were forced to drop out of school. We stayed at my relative's house for more than five months and have been sharing resources to keep our families alive." She recalls that her biggest headache was getting an income to feed her family.

Senidu reflects that life is has different chapters, and each has its own story, lessons, and opportunities. She has now managed to rebuild her house using resources mobilised from the local community by the woreda Women Children and Social Affairs Bureau.

Senidu also took part in an income generating activity training and received a cash grant through the economic revival intervention of the peace support program in the woreda with the support of UNDP. The 12,000.00ETB (USD 218) cash support has enabled her to restart her small business. Now Senidu uses her income to feed her family and send her children to school.

"I appreciate the opportunities and the support that I received so far. Now, I have a job and can feed my



**Senidu Abebaw**

family, and my children are also back at school," Senidu says with optimism for her future.

"I used to cover the family's day-to-day expenses with goat rearing, topping up my husband's income. I lost my husband and our livelihood with the conflict, and I had nothing left," says Abeba.

Abeba continues, "Though the pain is unbearable and unforgettable, I don't want to fail. I looked at my ability and potential to be self-sufficient rather than dependant on others. I am skilled in making traditional handicrafts and survived the difficult times by selling handicrafts at the local markets in Sulula kebele, one of the conflict-impacted areas in the region".

Abeba earned about 5000 ETB

(USD90) each month from the handicrafts.

Abeba has been selected through the UNDP's peace support program and has received four goats. "I am excited with the support that I received. I will earn income from breeding the goats and plan to use this resource to one day start a small business," says Abeba. She expresses her wish to be a role model for other women in her community trying to rebuild their lives after the conflict.

Sadly, all equipment in the tea shop had been looted or damaged during the conflict, and Maritu lost the business she had worked years to build. Therefore, she couldn't run the business for the past two years.

[Full story](#)

## Can Ethiopia become a manufacturing powerhouse?



**UNDP's 2023 Annual Development Conference explored Ethiopia's likelihood of transitioning from trading to manufacturing**

UNDP's 2023 Annual Development Conference explored Ethiopia's likelihood of transitioning from trading to manufacturing, and showcased UNDP's latest working paper which proposed reforms that could help the country fulfil its ambitions of becoming a manufacturing powerhouse.

Organised to tackle the theme Can Ethiopia become a manufacturing powerhouse? the Annual Development Conference showcased analytics and findings published in the latest UNDP working paper, and participants also had the opportunity to hear global lessons shared by keynote speakers from Bangladesh and Kenya.

"The manufacturing sector is linked to a country's commitment to deliver across the various Sustainable Development Goals," Ms. Charu Bist, UNDP Ethiopia's acting Resident Representative, underlined at the opening of the Annual Development Conference, while raising concerns that when it comes to commitments to gender equality, the focus on job creation, especially for women, must go beyond numbers and ensure 'decent jobs'.

UNDP's working paper on the manufacturing sector included surveys to micro, small medium and large enterprises sent out with the support of the Addis Chamber of Commerce. UNDP Ethiopia's Policy

Development and Research Hub also held field visits and interviews with both public and private sector officials.

According to the working paper's findings, Ethiopia has considerable potential to become a manufacturing power, export USD 10 billion by 2030, and create many thousands of jobs. Despite repeated interventions to support manufacturing, the sector remains nascent. The exports remain anchored on coffee, horticulture, and oilseeds. The introduction of industrial parks in 2015 has been promising but adversely impacted by shocks.

[Full story](#)

## Close to 1.9 million receive the Cholera vaccine despite challenging environment in Amhara region



**Supportive supervision to monitor progress of the OCV campaign in Bahir Dar! APHI Director General receiving his first OCV dose during campaign launch**

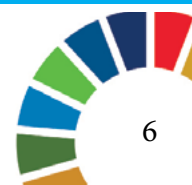
The Amhara region is the 2nd most populated region in Ethiopia. The region currently faces multiple emergencies including drought, measles, malaria, and a cholera

outbreak according to the Amhara Public Health Institute (APHI). The region is also affected by armed conflicts, causing a spike in the number of Internally Displaced

People (IDPs). The region counts over 800,000 IDPs in the region, of which 12% are living in 40 collective sites.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is assisting the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and APHI by providing financial and technical support where humanitarian or other public health responses are required. WHO conducted successful interventions which include providing vaccination and essential kits for cholera and other diseases.

[Full story](#)



## WHO workshop addresses Health Technology Assessment challenges in African countries



*WHO organizes a workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for representatives of selected member states in the African region*

In a landmark event, the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a 'historical' workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for selected member states in the African region.

Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from December 12th to 14th, 2023, with the theme 'Health Technology Assessment for Priority Setting to Achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC),' the workshop aimed at tackling critical issues related to the systematic evaluation of healthcare technology and its role in decision-making processes.

The workshop also envisaged helping the establishment and institutionalization of HTA in the health systems of the selected countries, sharing experiences and approaches for capacity building, disseminating relevant guidance documents to promote the use of HTA, and ultimately helping countries to develop their roadmaps for progressing towards the implementation of HTA concepts and principles.

The workshop emphasized that Health Technology, including medicines, medical devices, vaccines, and health interventions, plays a crucial role in health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

The essential role of HTA in evaluating the properties, effects, and impacts of healthcare technology to inform policy decisions was also deliberated. The workshop also discussed the vital role of HTA in achieving UHC by ensuring the efficient and equitable allocation of healthcare resources.

"The main purpose of HTA is to inform policy decision-making in health care, and thus improve the uptake of cost-effective new technologies and prevent the uptake of technologies that are of doubtful value for the health system," Dr. Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Acting Representative of WHO Ethiopia stated while opening the workshop.

[Full story](#)

## Education in Emergencies



Despite living in conflict, children still have their dreams.

In Azerti Kitili IDP camp in Benishangul-Gumuz region in Ethiopia, countless children have been displaced due to inter-ethnic conflict.

But UNICEF and its partners are giving these children a chance to reclaim their childhood and provide them with the opportunity to learn.

Take Haile Mohammed, 12 years old, after fleeing his home with his mum, Mulu, and his brothers and sisters, he is happily back in the classroom. "I want to be a doctor when I grow up," he said. His mum said beaming proudly: "I am proud of my son, and I am overjoyed, even despite the fact we can't go home, he is learning and safe."

Mussa Asmara loves football and idolizes Lionel Messi. When he is not playing football, he goes to school, and he is in Grade 3. His favorite subject is Amharic, and his dream is to be a teacher.

[Full story](#)

# UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF in collaboration with partners, have commemorated 16 Days of Activism



**UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF in collaboration with partners commemorate 16 Days of Activism**

UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF in collaboration with government counterparts, CSOs, and other development partners, commemorated 16 Days of Activism under the UNiTE campaign theme for 2023 Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.

The global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a key international moment to call for an end to violence against women and girls. It runs from 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10th December, Human Rights Day.

In support of this campaign, the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE by 2030 initiative calls for global action to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations to help end all types of violence against women and girls. A series of activities were conducted as part of the 16 Days Activism. The activities include the following.

## Launch of a strategy

This year's 16 Days of Activism saw the launch of the five-year national strategy on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

The strategy was developed under the leadership of the National Co-ordinating Body on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Children which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs.

UN Women and UNICEF were key partners in the development of the strategy by providing financial and technical support to the process.

The launch of the strategy, held in Adama, Oromia Region, on 1 December 2023, was graced by H.E. Sahlework Zewdie, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye, Minister for Women and Social Affairs; H.E. Dr. Ermiyas Yemanebirhan, State Minister of Justice; members of parliament, heads and representatives of UN agencies, senior government officials and other stakeholders.

The strategy has been developed under the leadership of the National Co-ordinating Body on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Children which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs.

## A high-level panel on GBV in Crisis Contexts in Ethiopia

UN Women Ethiopia in collaboration with the Spanish Cooperation, UNFPA, Embassies of Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, the European Union, and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs co-organized a high-level panel on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Crisis Contexts in Ethiopia.

The objective of the event is to discuss about women and girls in conflict affected regions with a particular focus on those affected by gender-based violence. The panel created a platform for service providers in the conflict areas, government, practitioners, and development partners to interact and share experience.

## [Full story](#)

# UN Ethiopia

**Bimonthly Newsletter by the UN Communications Group**

**Email:** [uncommunications@un.org](mailto:uncommunications@un.org)

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