



UNITED NATIONS
ETHIOPIA



United Nations Ethiopia **Annual Results Report**

July 2022 – June 2023

Front cover photo: Support provided to children's education in Afar Region.
Source: UNICEF, 2023



Coffee Corners: community dialogue and awareness raising on social norms change.
Source: UN Women, 2023

Table of contents

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator 4	Outcome IV: Environmental protection and climate change 39
United Nations Country Team..... 5	UN working together better: Coherence, effectiveness and efficiency 49
Key developments in the country: Context and trends 7	Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda 53
UNCT support to national development priorities through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 9	Financial overview and resource mobilization 54
Outcome I: People 12	Challenges and lessons learned..... 55
Outcome II: Justice, Democracy and Peace 22	UNCT key priorities 2023–2024 56
Outcome III: Prosperity..... 29	Acronyms and abbreviations..... 58



Distribution of maize seeds to farmers in Kola Temben, Tigray, within the Emergency Locust Response Project, owned by the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, financed by the World Bank and implemented by UNOPS.
Source: UNOPS, 2023

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

I am pleased to present the United Nations Country Results Report for 2022/2023, which marks the midpoint in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Ethiopia (Cooperation Framework) 2020–2025. The report showcases the United Nations' work in support of Ethiopia's development priorities and the aspirations of the Ethiopian people for a resilient and prosperous nation.

The reporting period was marked by significant events. After almost two years of intense conflict, an Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities (COHA) was signed in Pretoria on 2 November 2022. This agreement paves the way for the restoration of peace, security and stability in the Tigray Region and beyond, including conflict-affected areas of Afar and Amhara regions. The toll from the conflict has been enormous and will require urgent, sustained and large-scale efforts to overcome. So far, the COHA and subsequent agreements have been holding, and progress is being made to meet their terms.

Meanwhile, multiple and often overlapping crises including climate change effects with periodic droughts and floods, have continued to impact people's livelihoods and drive high humanitarian needs in 2023, affecting the most vulnerable Ethiopians and putting a strain on the country's development trajectory. Despite these challenges and the presence of multiple competing crises worldwide, United Nations Ethiopia has continued to deliver life-saving interventions and has made considerable progress across the four strategic priority areas outlined in the Cooperation Framework.

The United Nations has provided support to the Government of Ethiopia to improve access to essential social services, with a focus on including the most vulnerable and those at risk of being left behind. The promotion of human rights, justice and democracy to build a cohesive, inclusive and democratic society remains at the heart of the United Nations' support to Ethiopia. Additionally, United Nations Ethiopia has

launched a new USD 60 million project for electoral support and enhancing democratic governance in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, the United Nations has worked to reinforce Ethiopia's economic resilience while reducing its vulnerability to shocks. Support has been provided to create decent job opportunities and expand social protection, reaching over 610,000 people affected by conflict, drought and floods in the country. Efforts to reduce the adverse effects of climate change have also been prioritized, including strengthening early warning systems, promoting the use of clean and sustainable energy, and protecting natural resources.

The results highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the Ethiopian leadership and the close collaboration and support of our partners, including the Government, civil society, donors and the private sector, for which we are truly grateful.

Looking ahead, United Nations Ethiopia, in collaboration with its partners, will continue to focus on supporting peacebuilding efforts, strengthening food systems, building resilience to humanitarian crises, and implementing targeted interventions in regions at risk of being left behind.



Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov
Assistant Secretary-General
United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
for Ethiopia

United Nations Country Team

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia comprises 28 United Nations organizations, funds and specialized programmes, including two non-resident agencies. The United Nations Economic Commission in Africa (UNECA) is also present in Addis Ababa 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.

The UNCT in Ethiopia

Resident agencies



Non-resident agencies



The United Nations in Ethiopia works with more than 200 national partners spanning various sectors including government, civil society organizations, international NGOs, academic institutions, financial institutions, private sectors and donor partners.

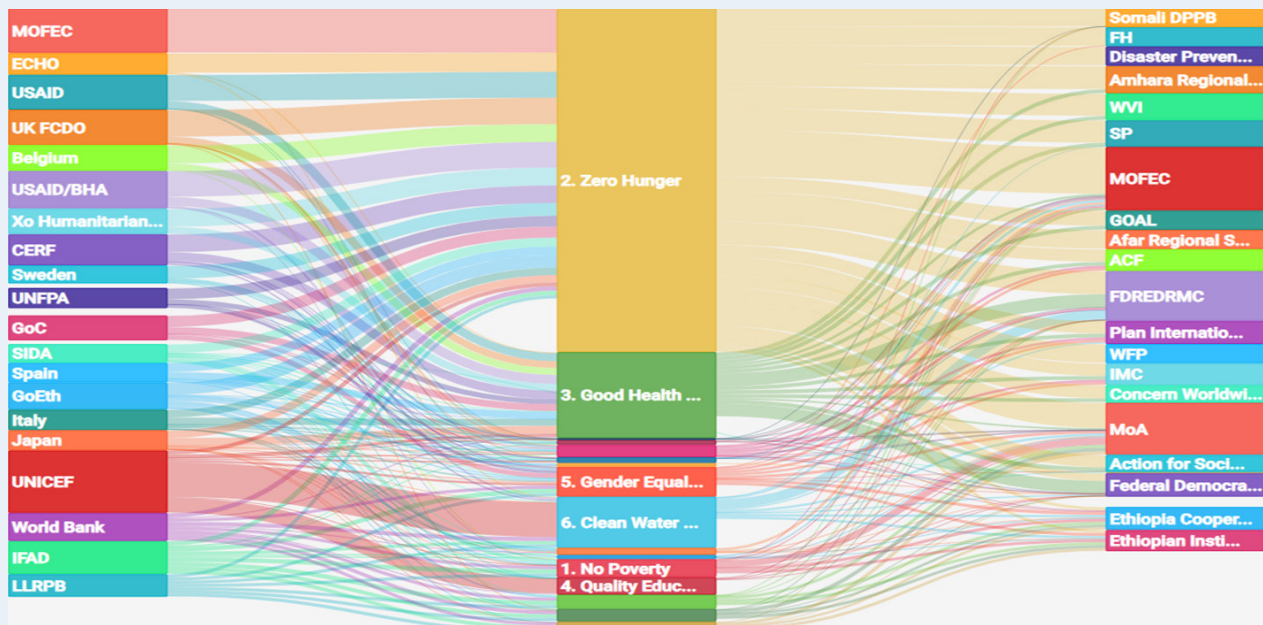
Government partners closely aligned with the UNCT include the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Finance, Health, Industry, Innovation and Technology, Justice, Labour and Skills, Planning and Development, Trade and Regional Integration, Transport and Logistics, Water and Energy, and Women and Social Affairs. Additionally, partnerships extend to bodies like the House of People’s Representatives; federal and regional courts, commissions, and authorities including the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopian Forestry Development, Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ethiopian Investment Commission, Ethiopia Media Authority, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Ethiopian Statistics Service, Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Federal Police Commission, Federal Prison Commission, and Refugees

and Returnees Service. Furthermore, collaborations encompass city administrations, regional states, and woreda bureaux, commissions and offices.

The United Nations in Ethiopia also partners with civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, national and international NGOs, academic institutions, professional associations and private sectors.

The support from global funds and foundations, bilateral donors and financial institutions has been crucial to United Nations Ethiopia’s successful implementation of planned initiatives and programmes. Key donor partners include the African Development Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States, IKEA Foundation, KfW Development Bank, Microsoft and the World Bank.

Key development partners of the United Nations in Ethiopia



Source: <https://uninfo.org/location/170/funding>.

Note: The chart shows the top 20 contributors to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ethiopia and implementing partners in 2023.

Key developments in the country: **Context and trends**

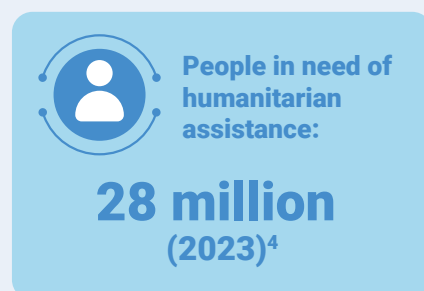
Key figures



Human development index:
0.498 (2021)



Human development index ranking:
175 out of 191 countries (2021)



¹ Ethiopian Statistical Service projection in July 2023.

² World Bank, "GDP per capita (current US\$) – Ethiopia", World Bank National Accounts Data. Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=ET> (accessed on 5 January 2024).

³ Ethiopian Statistics Service, "Country and Regional Level Consumer Indices (CPI) February 2022 – January 2023 Inflation Rate (February 2023)". Available at www.statsethiopia.gov.et/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CPI-July-2023-2.pdf (accessed on 5 January 2024).

⁴ UNOCHA, "Ethiopia", 22 December 2023. Available at www.unocha.org/ethiopia (accessed on 5 January 2024).

On 2 November 2022, the signing of the AU-led peace agreement (Cessation of Hostilities Agreement [COHA]) between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front marked the most significant development and milestone in the pursuit of lasting peace in Northern Ethiopia, paving the way for the restoration of basic human rights in the Tigray Region, and in the conflict-impacted areas of Afar and Amhara regions. This wide-ranging agreement commits, among other things, to an immediate and permanent cessation of hostilities, the restoration of federal authority in Tigray, the creation of an interim administration pending new regional elections, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants, resumption of unhindered humanitarian access, the restoration of essential services, reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning refugees, transitional justice, social cohesion and reconciliation, and recovery and reconstruction.

While the general security situation remained calm in Northern Ethiopia post-COHA, the disbandment of regional special forces and the assassination of a high-profile politician, coupled with unsuccessful peace talks between the Federal Government and the Oromia Liberation Army, have exacerbated tensions in several regions, particularly Amhara and Oromia. Since April 2023, unrest in Amhara has intensified, leading to clashes between the Ethiopia National Defence Force and local militias such as Fano and other armed groups. This violence has resulted in the arrest of opposition leaders and journalists, imposition of curfews in various areas of the region, road closures, and disruption of public services. Additionally, the assassination of regional officials, including the head of the ruling Prosperity Party's Amhara regional branch, has further escalated tensions. The situation remains precarious in other regions due to violence, crime, civil unrest and hazards, with regional states reporting intercommunal and interclan clashes and criminal activities.

The security situation is further compounded by climatic shocks, environmental resource degradation such as drought and flooding, and multiple, concurrent health emergencies and disease outbreaks including the cholera outbreak in August 2022 and early 2023 in the Oromia, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. At the end of 2022, over 20 million people required humanitarian assistance.

Internal displacement also remains a significant challenge for Ethiopia, exacerbated by overlapping

crises. As per the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, 4.6 million IDPs will require assistance. The armed conflict in neighbouring Sudan may exacerbate the already dire situation in the country, with thousands of forcibly displaced people at several points of entry along the land border between the two countries. Among the forcibly displaced individuals arriving in Ethiopia since the onset of the conflict are Sudanese and Ethiopian nationals, many recognized as refugees in Sudan. Data collected by UNOCHA indicates that, by July 2023, close to 65,000 people have arrived from Sudan into Ethiopia through multiple border crossing points in the Amhara, Benishangul/Gumuz, and Gambella regions. Instability and insecurity in bordering regions may further complicate negotiations on the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and strain the already declining external aid flows.

The multiple shocks and crises have disproportionately affected already vulnerable populations, contributing to poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition.⁵ Moreover, political gains made in the participation of women in leadership in 2022/2023 have regressed, with women's representation in the executive branch dropping from 50 percent to 26 percent as of October 2022. In the latter half of 2023, the resignation of prominent women leaders and public figures, including Ms Meaza Ashenafi, the first woman Supreme Court President, and Ms Birtukan Midekssa, former opposition figure and the first woman to lead the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) were significant setbacks, as their appointment had been celebrated by all stakeholders following the 2018 political reform in the country.

A notable political development during 2022–2023 was the regional referendum on the formation of a new regional state. In February 2023, NEBE held a referendum in six zones and five special woredas in the SNNP Region, upon the request from the House of Federation. After identifying several irregularities, the voter registration and polling for the Wolayita zone were cancelled and repeated, with the referendum voting occurring in June 2023. The vote across all constituencies favoured the formation of a new region, leading to the establishment of the Central Ethiopia Region.

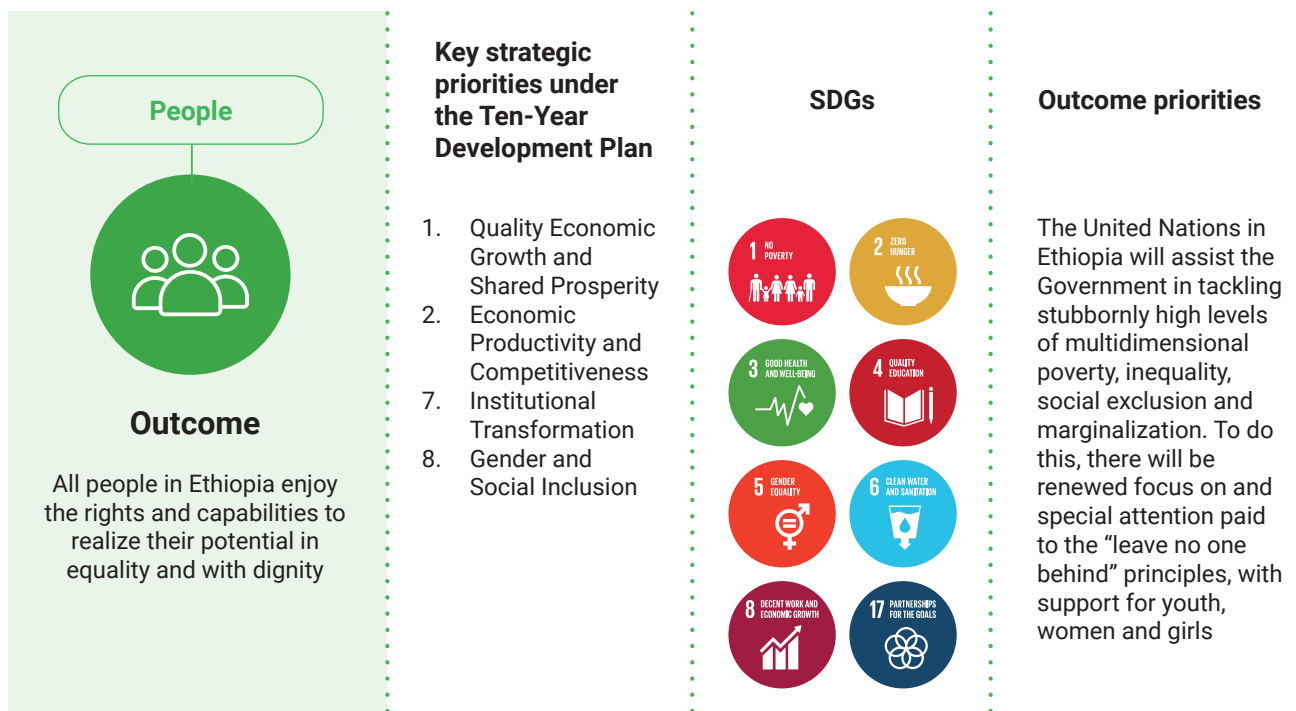
Ethiopia conducted its second voluntary national review on the SDGs and presented its national report to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022.

⁵ UNICEF, *Undernourished and Overlooked: A Global Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women* (New York, United States, 2023), available at www.unicef.org/reports/undernourished-overlooked-nutrition-crisis.

UNCT support to national development priorities through the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**

Overview of results

In 2020, the UNCT in Ethiopia and GoE signed the UNSDCF 2020–2025. The UNSDCF is the key framework guiding United Nations support to GoE in the implementation of the SDGs and the Ten-Year Development Plan (2021–2030). The UNSDCF has four key priorities: people, democracy, justice and peace, prosperity and environmental protection and climate change.



Democracy, Justice and Peace



Outcome

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

Key strategic priorities under the Ten-Year Development Plan

7. Institutional Transformation
8. Gender and Social Inclusion
9. Access to Justice and Efficient Civil Services

SDGs



Outcome priorities

The United Nations will support the country in developing the core institutions of democratic governance as well as entrenching the norms, rules, practices and systems that ensure participation in political and civic life, strengthen respect for and the 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



Outcome

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

Key strategic priorities under the Ten-Year Development Plan

1. Quality Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity
2. Economic Productivity and Competitiveness
5. Private Sector-led Economic Growth

SDGs



Outcome priorities

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 the overlapping crisis 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



Outcome

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

Key strategic priorities under the Ten-Year Development Plan

6. Resilient Green Economy

SDGs



Outcome priorities

The United Nations will assist Ethiopia in progressing rapidly towards a green economy that is resilient to growing risks, above all the effects of climate change and environmental resource degradation, building greater resilience and enabling the country to “adapt and transform” at the same time, taking account of risks and opportunities. The United Nations will support Ethiopia in complying with the commitment contained in the Paris Agreement, among others, implementing its nationally determined contribution to achieve its ambitious target of reducing its emission by 68.8 percent by 2030 from the business- as-usual scenario

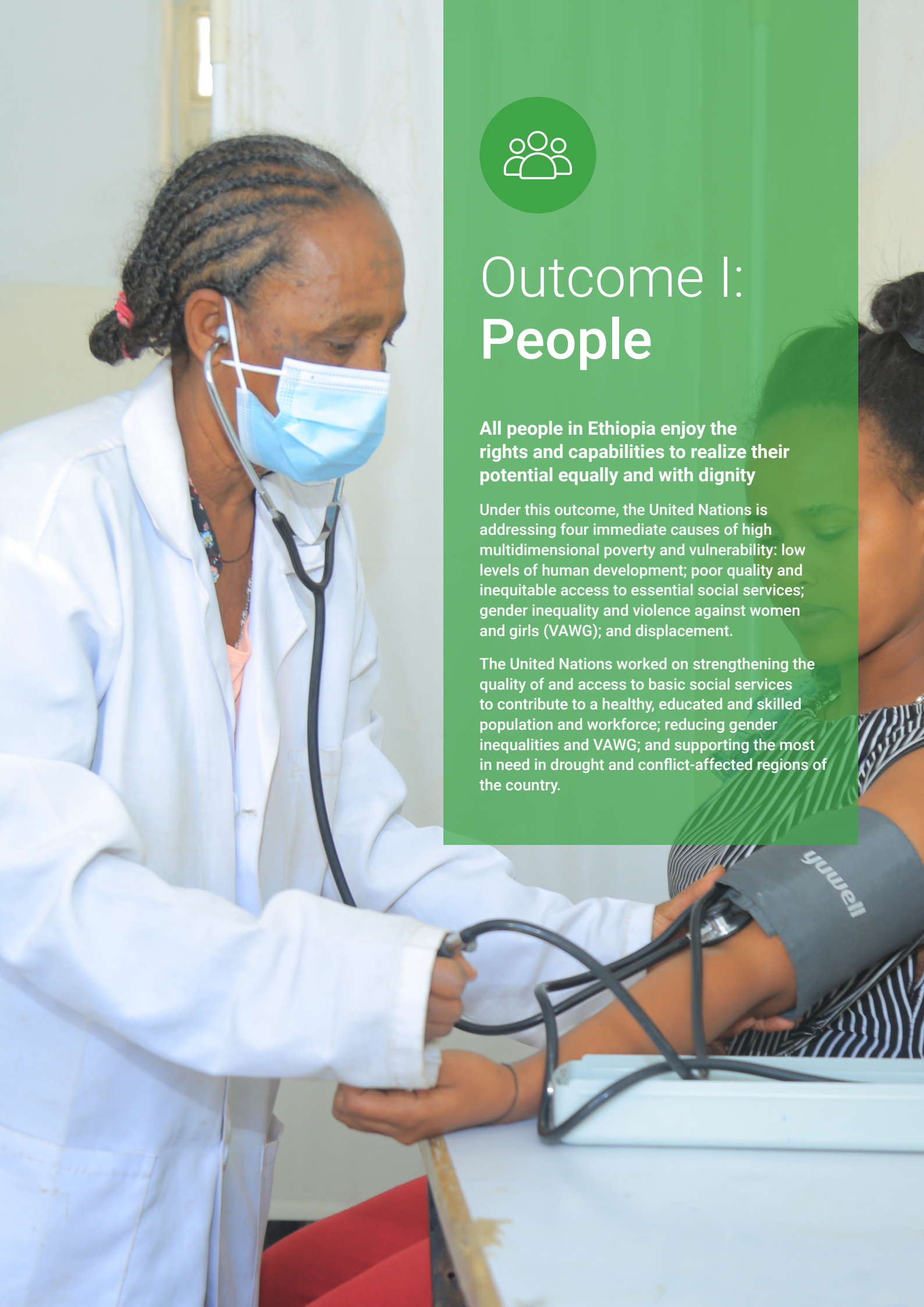


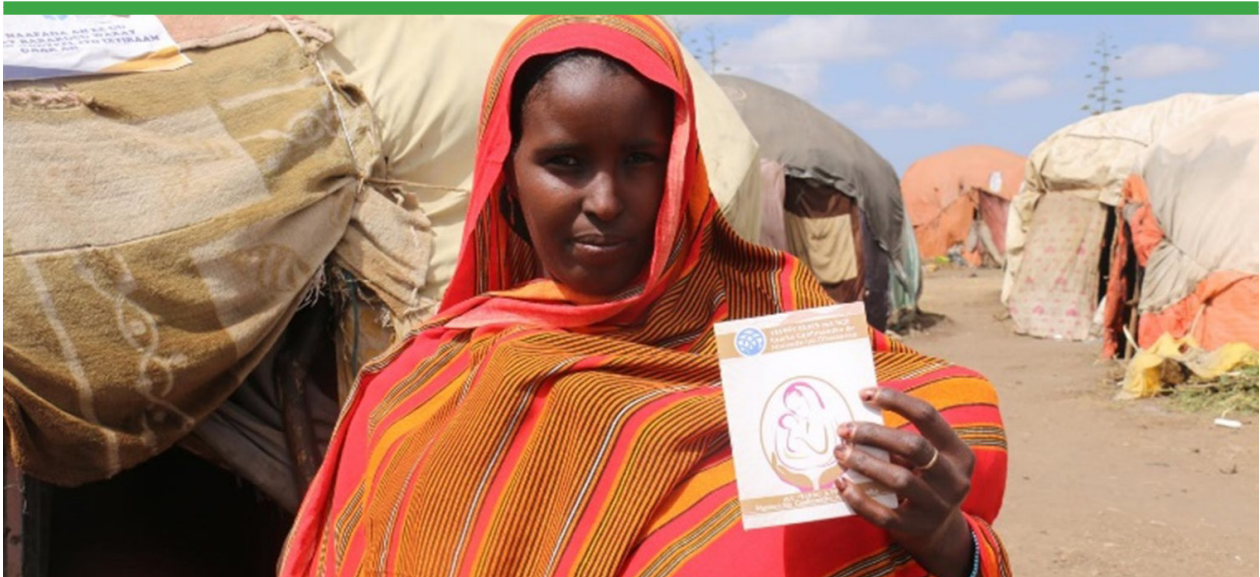
Outcome I: People

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

Under this outcome, the United Nations is 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 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; and supporting the most in need in drought and conflict-affected regions of the country.





Ms Hodan Abdi, a mother of a child with zero-dose vaccination testifies efforts to leave no one behind.⁶
Source: WHO Ethiopia, Somali Region, 2023.

A mother of a child with zero-dose vaccination testifies the efforts to leave no one behind

Hodan Abdi, an IDP living in Tulu Gulled Woreda, Fafan Zone of Somali Region, went through a very painful, prolonged and unbearable labour whilst giving birth to her baby boy, Mudasir. Due to multiple crisis in the woreda in recent times, including severe drought, outbreaks of cholera and vaccine-preventable diseases, and recurring conflicts in the woreda, her son Mudasir went for three months without receiving a single dose of life-saving vaccines recommended for his age. Children with stories like Mudasir's are common in Ethiopia.

In recognition of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts, and as continuation of the concerted efforts, the Ministry of Health, WHO and other partners are making efforts to reinstate immunization services and increase coverage in the country. Thus, the picture is now changing, and the negative impacts reversed.

Accordingly, using the opportunity of the nationwide measles supplementary immunization activity (SIA), conducted between December 2022 and January 2023, routine immunization has been integrated for children below one year who were zero-dose or undervaccinated. In the Somali Region, the integrated measles SIA was conducted from 26 December 2022 to 4 January 2023. During this time, health workers finally tracked and vaccinated Mudasir and his agemates with the life-saving routine vaccines.

Throughout the country, a total of 109,984 zero-dose children were identified and vaccinated during the integrated measles SIA, about 10 per cent of the estimated 1.1 million zero-dose children in the country, as indicated in the Ethiopian Mini-Demographic Health Survey 2019.

"I greatly appreciate the efforts made by the health workers and other humanitarian staff involved in this vaccination campaign to provide these live-saving interventions for our children," said Hodan.

WHO has joined its global partners, including Gavi – the Vaccine Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF, to reach zero-dose and undervaccinated children in Ethiopia as part of the global effort to reduce the number of zero-dose children by 25 per cent by 2025 and to halve it by 2030.

⁶ The full story is available at www.afro.who.int/countries/ethiopia/news/mother-child-zero-dose-vaccination-testifies-efforts-leave-no-one-behind.

Health and WASH

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in bolstering the GoE towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Through the provision of normative, technical, and financial assistance, significant strides have been made across various health-related domains.

A noteworthy accomplishment includes the development of the National Antenatal Care Guideline, aimed at ensuring a positive pregnancy experience and enhancing the capacity of health workers to provide maternal emergency prevention and diagnostic imaging services. Moreover, the rollout of the National Clinical Audit Tool in selected hospitals has markedly improved the quality of care for maternal, newborn, and child health. This effort has led to a notable increase in fourth antenatal care visit attendance, rising from 67.0 percent to 72.6 percent between January and December 2022, along with improved skilled birth attendance rates, indicative of tangible enhancements in maternal and child health indicators.

During the reporting period, the United Nations, through its support, implemented a co-financing system to facilitate the procurement of family planning and reproductive health commodities. This innovative approach aimed at bolstering financial stability and sustainability in ensuring access to essential services. Consequently, 3,089,068 couples were protected from unintended pregnancy for one full year.

In addressing non-communicable diseases, 7 million eligible individuals were screened, diagnosed, and treated at 87 health facilities spanning seven regions (Benishangul/Gumuz, Gambella, Amhara, Oromia, Addis Ababa, Somali and SNNP). Additionally, a multisectoral

governing body on non-communicable diseases was established, comprising 20 line ministries and sectoral agencies, to advance critical strategic interventions in this domain.

The Ethiopia-UN Joint Team (E-UNJT) collaborates with development partners to achieve the global triple target of 95 percent in HIV response. Currently, 86 percent of individuals living with HIV are aware of their status, with 98 percent receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 98 percent achieving viral suppression. However, ART coverage among children remains at 40 percent. E-UNJT supported the Ministry of Health in developing normative guidance and revising the HIV National Strategic Plan (2023–2027). Through E-UNJT, national and subnational HIV evidence was generated, contributing to the mobilization of USD 258 million from the Global Fund. Additionally, 500,000 young people accessed sexual and reproductive health care, and HIV services in conflict-affected areas have been reinstated.

Furthermore, the United Nations facilitated the adoption of new global guidance on tuberculosis (TB) prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In 2022, the country expanded its GeneXpert machine capacity, leading to an increase in TB case notifications. Although there has been a slight reduction in annual TB notifications over the years, treatment coverage has improved significantly.

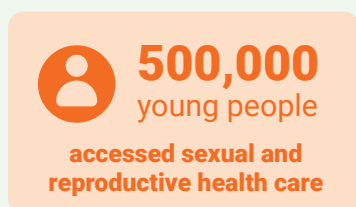
With United Nations assistance, 3,957,000 people have gained access to basic water supply services, while 1,589,000 individuals now have access to basic sanitation. The United Nations has played a pivotal role in supporting the Ministry of Health's efforts, particularly through the development of the Water and Sanitation



4th antenatal care visit attendance increased from **67% to 72.6%** in 2022



Across 87 health facilities in 7 regions **7 million people** screened for NDC



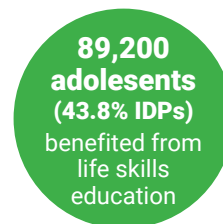
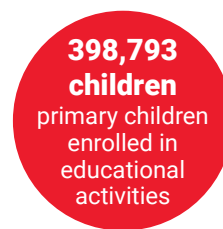
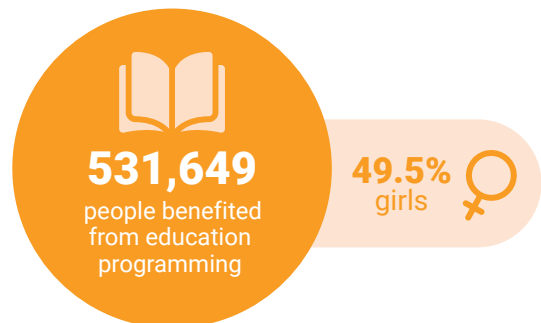
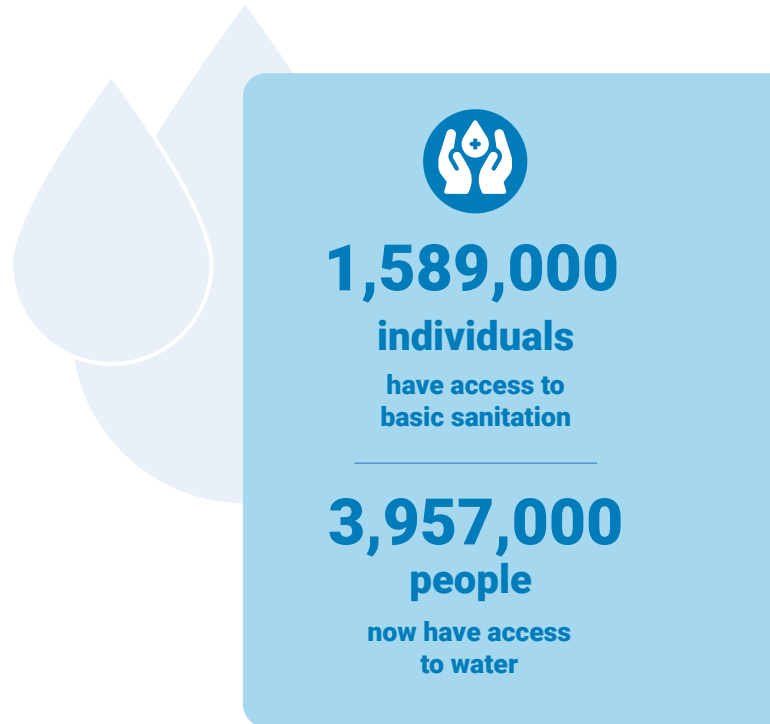
for Health Facility Improvement Tool. Nationally, 36 experts (7 women and 29 men) have been empowered to enhance capacity at subnational levels for improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in healthcare facilities. Support has been extended to nine districts across the Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, and Sidama regions, along with assistance to 10 water safety plan implementation sites and water utilities. This support includes conducting baseline assessments for basic sanitation services in rural households located in the micro-catchment areas of water sources.

Education

The United Nations successfully reached 531,649 individuals with education programming, with a notable focus on ensuring equitable access for girls, constituting 49.5 percent of the beneficiaries. This comprehensive initiative encompassed various components, including facilitating access to learning opportunities, providing temporary classrooms, distributing school bags stocked with essential supplies, and enhancing the quality of classroom teaching.

Among the beneficiaries, 132,856 children (48 percent girls) received pre-primary education, while 398,793 primary children (50 percent girls) were enrolled in educational activities. Additionally, 89,200 adolescents aged 10–14, with a majority being girls (75 percent), benefited from life skills education, equipping them with essential skills for adulthood and fostering social and emotional development. Notably, this included 39,096 internally displaced adolescents residing in conflict and drought-affected areas.

Utilizing the innovative "My Home/Bete" programming approach, which integrates accelerated learning, skills development, child protection services, and mental health and psychosocial support, the United Nations reached 78,000 children, with girls comprising 49 percent of the beneficiaries. This initiative targeted emergency-affected populations and host communities, ensuring that vulnerable children received holistic support tailored to their needs.



Addressing gender inequalities and violence against women and girls



Megabi Haimanot Kesis (Reverend) Netsanet Akleweg, Deputy Manager of the Diocese of the Sidama Region, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church.⁷

Source: UN Women Ethiopia, 2023.

Through UN Women's Safe Cities and Public Spaces Project, implemented in collaboration with Norwegian Church Aid and local faith actors, VAWG prevention is mainstreamed through the teachings and services provided by churches in Sidama Region. Megabi Haimanot Kesis (Reverend) Netsanet Akleweg, who is the Diocese of the Sidama Region under the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church and coordinator of the project, attests to the change he witnessed since the implementation of the project. He says "The attitude of the members of the clergy changed and they are now serving as the change agents in their community."

Since the start of the project in 2019, the number of churches under the diocese increased from 10 to 12 in Hawassa City and its vicinity. The VAWG teachings are mainstreamed in the teachings and services in the church. He adds "The VAWG teachings and interventions were also expanded to the three church-owned secular schools and their gender clubs in Hawassa City. Another achievement is the inclusion of a module that focuses on gender and GBV in the curriculum of the Hawassa clergy training centre, which has a diploma training programme for clergy for up to two years. The module includes key concepts of gender, causes and consequence of GBV, the role of the church and clergy in preventing and responding to GBV, and skills on cascading messages of GBV to the church community."

Megabi Haimanot adds "A lot has changed in the church and in the clergy training centre's teaching when it comes to breaking the taboo in discussing VAWG happening in the church. Before we took part in the programme, it would have felt strange to talk about VAWG in the church setting. Members were externalizing the issue as if it wasn't happening in the church. While feedback was mixed between discomfort from congregants and good reception from others, members are increasingly receiving the topics well."

⁷ The full story is available at <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/from-where-i-stand/2023/04/it-was-strange-to-talk-about-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-church-at-first-now-it-is-included-in-all-we-do>.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in bolstering comprehensive services provided at one-stop centres for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual violence (SV). Throughout the reporting period, a total of 12,938 survivors (12,834 female and 104 male) received comprehensive services across 44 of the 74 operational one-stop centres. Notably, the coverage of health facilities offering services for GBV/SV survivors has expanded from 7.5 percent to 23 percent, while primary health care with a multidisciplinary team approach and referral linkage has risen from 3.5 percent to 21 percent between 2020/21 and 2022. Additionally, the National Health Sector Gender Audit conducted in 2022 laid the groundwork for monitoring progress towards gender equality and social justice in health.

The Ministry of Justice has enhanced its capacity in deploying a crime registration management system, with 66 relevant cadres trained. Furthermore, 1,077 professionals from various sectors of the justice system and 463 faith-based institutional cadres have received GBV orientation.

Across regions including Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, and Somali, a total of 3,943 violence survivors and their 954 accompanying children have accessed shelters, free legal aid, and hotline services. Collaborative efforts with university law schools have facilitated legal aid services for GBV survivors, including refugees and IDPs, alongside survivor-centered case management services. Notably, 12,930 IDPs have been reached and informed about available GBV services, with 475 survivors expressing satisfaction with the GBV case management services.

The United Nations supported conflict-impacted populations in Afar, Amhara and Tigray to recover from the fallout of the conflicts. The support includes: rebuilding the livelihoods of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); capacity-strengthening of justice sector institutions to promote human rights, gender equality and rule of law in conflict-affected areas; and the provision of psychosocial support and legal services for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and SGBV.



12,938
survivors

received comprehensive services across 44 of the 74 operational one-stop centres.

Coverage has increased from
7.5% to 23%



3,943 violence survivors and their
954 accompanying children accessed
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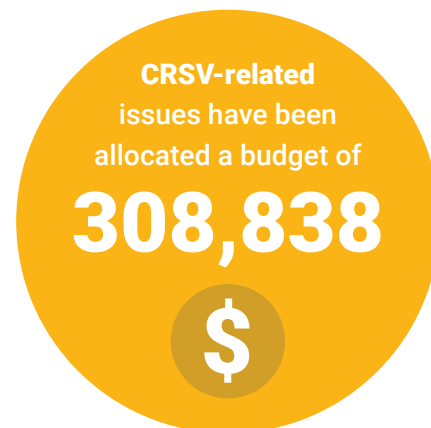
The United Nations' efforts in addressing CRSV-related issues in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray have been allocated a budget of USD 308,838. These initiatives underscore the UN's commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by survivors of gender-based violence and conflict-affected populations, promoting recovery, justice, and resilience.

In the Amhara Region, 228 women survivors of SGBV have received livelihood support across five intervention woredas. This assistance includes tailored business development support, enabling survivors to craft business plans and engage in small-scale ventures such as poultry, sheep- and goat-rearing, and operating small businesses or shops. Additionally, cash grant assistance is provided to these women to kick-start income-generating activities.

In Tigray, 725 of the most vulnerable yet potentially active SGBV survivors have been identified and supported across six targeted woredas. Each beneficiary receives an ETB 40,000 (approximately USD 700) cash grant to initiate or bolster their income-generating activities. Furthermore, they undergo a two-day psychosocial refresher training and business skill development sessions facilitated by regional- and woreda-level implementing partners.

Efforts to strengthen justice sector institutions are focused on aiding the investigation and prosecution of CRSV/SGBV crimes, benefiting a total of 431 justice sector personnel (202 female and 229 male) across five targeted woredas in the Amhara Region.

Currently, the United Nations operates in 13 woredas across the three targeted regions, including six in Tigray, five in Amhara, and two in Afar. These initiatives reflect the UN's commitment to addressing the complex needs of SGBV survivors and fostering justice and resilience in conflict-affected communities.



Eritrean refugee Selam (not her real name) 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.⁸

Source: UNHCR, 2023

⁸ The full story is available at: <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/221967-northern-ethiopia-peace-deal-restores-hope-displaced>

Nutrition and food security



Danuko is a visually impaired student benefiting from UN's homegrown school feeding programme in Ethiopia, WFP Ethiopia, 2023.⁹

School meals: hot, nourishing and best enjoyed with friends

Danuko's dream is to be the president of Ethiopia and to inspire all the children in his country. A student at Shera Primary school in the drought-affected town of Omorate in southern Ethiopia, Danuko is one of 5.6 million children in Ethiopia supported by the World Food Programme's (WFP) homegrown school feeding programme in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia.

Three years of drought has left 11 million people facing hunger in this and other parts of southern and southeastern Ethiopia. For many students in this region, school meals are often the only nutritious meal they receive each day. Lunchtime is Danuko's favourite part of the day.

"We have fish on Thursdays and yesterday we had tomatoes, kale and beans," he says. "Before we started getting meals at school, we didn't even know what onions, papayas, vegetables or beans looked like, let alone their taste!"

Danuko is visually impaired and relies on his younger sister Araman to walk with him to school every day.

"Araman is the only one of my three sisters who is allowed to go to school," says Danuko. "My father says the others must help with chores around the house, and it's good that I am like this [visually impaired], because if Araman didn't have to lead me to school, she wouldn't be able to come at all."

WFP's homegrown school meals don't only benefit the children. This innovative approach links the schools with local smallholder farmers, providing them with a predictable outlet for their produce, leading to a stable income, more investments and higher productivity. The children enjoy healthy, diversified food, making it more likely that they will stay in school, perform better and improve their adult job prospects.

The homegrown school feeding programme in Ethiopia is possible through generous contributions from the European Commission, The United States Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program, the KFW Development Bank and the Governments of Finland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

⁹ The full story is available at: <https://medium.com/world-food-programme-insight/school-meals-hot-nourishing-and-best-enjoyed-with-friends-8f436516a571>.

With the assistance of the United Nations, over 363,000 school-age children have benefited from a daily school meal program, resulting in a notable 3 percent improvement in school enrolment across the covered schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative. Moreover, the HGSF program has directly supported over 5,000 smallholder farmers and indirectly benefited over 9,000 others through local procurement to supply food for program implementation in the SNNP region. A total of 1,043 metric tons of food provided through school meals were locally sourced under the HGSF modality, injecting approximately USD 1.4 million through cash-based transfers into the economy. This has created additional job opportunities, benefiting 546 indirect beneficiaries engaged in food processing and aggregation.

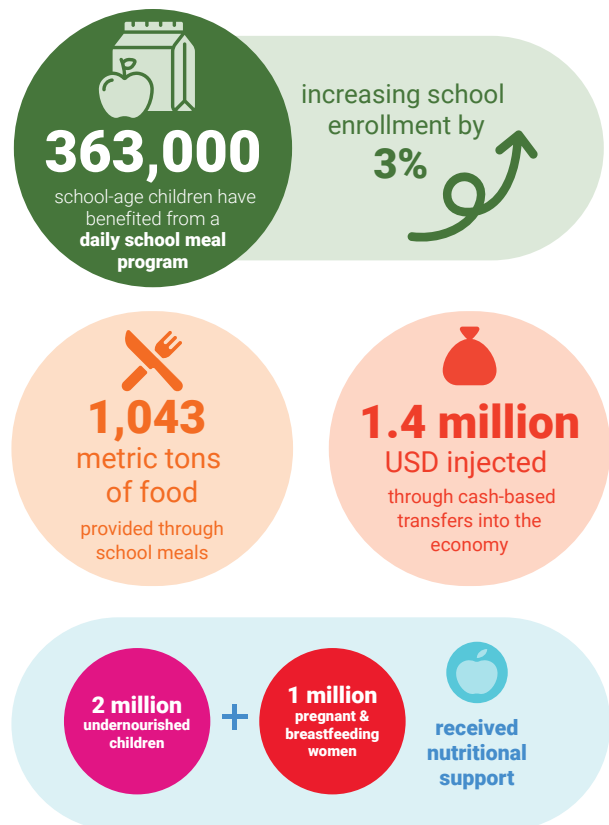
During the reporting period, the number of refugees in the country has steadily increased, with an additional 101,000 refugees arriving from Somali and Sudan (90,000 and 21,000, respectively). In response, the United Nations has intensified its efforts to support refugee communities, particularly in nutrition. A total of 749,000 refugees have received food assistance, ensuring access to vital nutrition.

Additionally, specialized nutritious foods have been provided to 2 million undernourished children and 1 million pregnant and breastfeeding women, totalling 43,659 metric tons of nutritional support. These initiatives underscore the United Nation's commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, including refugees, and ensuring their access to essential food and nutritional support.

The United Nations employs a range of strategies to provide food assistance, encompassing relief aid, nutritionally fortified food, fresh-food vouchers, refugee support, school feeding, and livelihood resilience programs. Notably, 90,978 individuals received digital voucher assistance, designed to enhance their access to nutrient-dense fresh foods, accompanied by social behaviour change communication efforts. Consequently, as of December 2022, 66 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the Minimum

Acceptable Diet, marking a significant increase from 18 percent in 2021. Similarly, the Minimum Diet Diversity for Women rose to 76 percent by the end of 2022, up from 27.5 percent in the previous year.

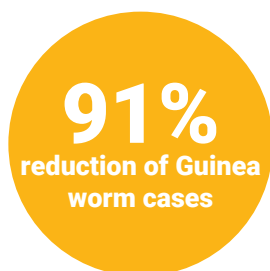
A collaborative cross-border pastoralist project between Ethiopia and Somalia was established, focusing on digital solutions that guide the indicators and workflow of the District Health Information System nutrition tracker. Through this initiative, 633,910 children aged 0–5 years and 113,544 pregnant and lactating women were screened for nutritional status. Additionally, 409,960 children received vitamin A supplementation, 347,716 were dewormed, and 15,545 pregnant mothers received iron folate across 76 woredas in the Tigray Region. The United Nations further supported the development of training tools and guidelines on nutrition to ensure the delivery of quality services.



Ensuring no one is left behind

United Nations support is directed towards those at risk of being marginalized, including refugees, IDPs, and migrants. Efforts have been made to integrate refugees into the national education system and the National Refugee Integration Steering Committee. As a result, a total of 4,530 individuals (21 percent women and girls) were enrolled in tertiary education, with 2,793 (12 percent women and girls) attending public universities. Additionally, 1,734 refugees (48 percent female) were enrolled in the public technical and vocational educational training (TVET) system, with 1,065 benefiting from wage and self-employment opportunities. Over the reporting period, 4,280 refugees (32 percent female) were successfully integrated into host community schools, spanning pre-primary, primary, and secondary education levels.

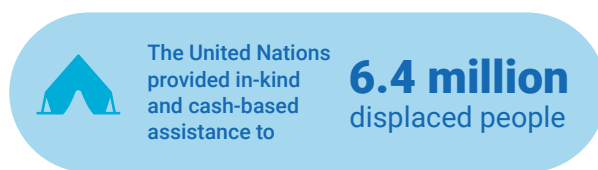
In the Gambella and Benishangul/Gumuz regions, surveillance of Guinea worm disease has been maintained in seven refugee camps through active case searches conducted by trained community health workers. Cross-border surveillance efforts have been intensified in all active entry points and border areas of South Sudan, where the disease remains endemic. This proactive approach facilitated the prompt detection and investigation of all reported Guinea worm disease rumours within 24 hours. In 2022, only one human Guinea worm case and three animal infections were reported, representing a reduction of 91 percent and 80 percent compared to 2020 and 2021, respectively. Health services provided to refugees and returnees reached 828,295 individuals, including 138,406 members of hosting communities, through outpatient consultations and the treatment of acute malnutrition for 44,372 children aged 6–59 months.



The United Nations provided crucial support to the GoE in establishing a legal framework for the implementation of the Kampala Convention, which addresses the protection and assistance of IDPs. Through a series of consultative dialogues and experience-sharing platforms, a draft Proclamation on the Protection and Assistance of IDPs was developed, laying the groundwork for a strategic response to the IDP situation. Normative support was complemented

by practical assistance, resulting in the resumption of registration, identification, and documentation activities. Notably, 223 asylum-seekers were recognized as refugees, and 34,262 IDPs and returnees benefited from free legal aid and awareness activities, including initiatives in collaboration with local universities focusing on housing, land, property, and associated rights.

Furthermore, the United Nations, in collaboration with health cluster partners, facilitated a timely response to the needs of IDPs. During the reporting period, 53,200 IDPs have returned to their homes. Support by the United Nations encompassed access to medical care, the prevention of GBV, mobile health and nutrition nurse services, financial assistance, outbreak management, infection prevention and control measures, WASH interventions, nutrition support, vaccinations, and coordination with partners to ensure effective assistance and technical support.



The United Nations provided unconditional in-kind and cash-based assistance to close to 6.4 million people who were affected by conflict, drought, floods and displacement in the Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions under the Humanitarian Response Plan and Northern Ethiopia Response Plan. More than 159,335.59 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and ETB 715,740,458 through cash-based transfers were distributed. In addition, cash support to 182 households and free health services for 30 households facilitated in Dire Dawa.

In close collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through Ethiopian missions in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, total of 47,305 Ethiopian migrant workers (33,968 female and 13,337 men) received different consular protection and services. Such protection and services included such as issuance of travel documents/renewal of passport, document attestation, facilitation for return, legal/paralegal assistance for those in jail and detention and to claim unpaid wages. Particularly from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ethiopian mission facilitated the return of 13,846 Ethiopian workers, the majority of whom were in various detention centres.



Outcome II: **Justice, democracy and peace**

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

Under this outcome, the United Nations aimed to address the underlying factors contributing to strained social cohesion and relatively low social capital. These included governance systems lacking transparency and accountability, threats to human rights leading to insecurity and unrest within and between communities, and widespread social exclusion and marginalization. To confront these challenges, the United Nations assisted Ethiopia in several key areas.

Firstly, efforts were directed towards bolstering and institutionalizing democratic governance while fostering a culture of democratic participation. Additionally, support was provided to strengthen the legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks for safeguarding human rights. Furthermore, the United Nations aided national endeavours to reform the justice system and promote the rule of law.

Moreover, peacebuilding initiatives were advanced through backing national dialogues and media campaigns aimed at countering hate speech and promoting understanding and reconciliation within communities. Through these multifaceted approaches, the United Nations endeavoured to address the root causes of social discord and enhance social cohesion across Ethiopia.



Focus group discussion with male traditional leaders during one of the consultations held across in various parts of the country on transitional justice organized by the United Nations and EHRC.

Source: UNOHCHR, 2022

The United Nations promotes the meaningful participation of conflict-affected populations in the design of transitional justice options for Ethiopia

“A person who died for the cause of truth has never died and instead lives forever,” said Azeb (not her real name), an IDP who took part in a consultation organized by United Nations and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in Dessie, Ethiopia, in July 2022. Her powerful words illustrated the strong eagerness of those affected by the conflict in Ethiopia to contribute to the process of transitional justice Ethiopia is embarking on.

Since July 2022, United Nations and EHRC have spoken to over 800 conflict-affected populations (including over 300 women) throughout various regions of the country, comprising victims, religious and traditional leaders, and local civil society organizations. This is part of United Nations efforts to inform a human rights perspective in the drafting of a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice, which is being contemplated by the GoE.

During the consultations, regardless of their locations, participants shared painful memories of how conflict has affected and continues to affect their lives: lost relatives, damaged homes, trauma. What united them was also the shared desire to have their broken souls repaired, their wounds healed and their lives rebuilt, to ultimately be able to live in peace together.

What emerged from the consultations was that for a society to be able to deal with the past and move forward, there is no one-size-fit all solution, and those affected must be involved in the solution. Some spoke of the urgent need of basic social services which would benefit entire communities, such as health care, livelihood opportunities as simple as the provision of seeds for agriculture, and the reconstruction of public buildings. Others focused more on the imperative to hold perpetrators of atrocities accountable. Many participants felt that to be able to move forward in life, the priority should be in knowing the truth of what happened and receiving public apologies for the suffering. Others hoped that traditional leaders would play a key role in the reconciliation process. In the words of one participant, “Elders can sew back even a sky that is torn apart.”

Men and women that met during every consultation thanked the United Nations and EHRC for the opportunity to speak their mind and requested that their views on accountability, reconciliation or compensation be shared with decision makers in Addis Ababa. Giving voices to Azeb and all those most affected by conflict will be a key factor in determining the success of the transitional justice process in Ethiopia.

Democracy and peacebuilding

The signing of the COHA marked a significant step towards restoring peace, security, and stability in the Tigray Region and other conflict-affected areas. However, the repercussions of the conflict have been profound, resulting in loss of life, a significant humanitarian crisis, increased poverty, and stunted human development. Additionally, the conflict has imposed considerable macroeconomic challenges, including fiscal constraints, mounting debt, reduced foreign exchange reserves, decreased official development assistance, and inflationary pressures. These factors have hindered Ethiopia's economic and governance reform efforts.

Following the peace agreement, the Senior Commanders of the GoE and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) issued the Declaration on the COHA on 12 November 2022 in Nairobi. Subsequently, in March 2023, the Joint Committee of Senior Commanders from both parties formulated the Detailed Implementation Plan for the DDR Process.

The United Nations has been actively supporting the GoE in implementing the COHA since its inception. Efforts are currently underway to roll out the Ministry of Finance's Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction

Framework (3RF)¹⁰ in areas affected by conflict, with backing from the World Bank. Recognizing the importance of delivering tangible benefits from peace efforts and addressing urgent needs beyond the scope of humanitarian aid, the United Nations has initiated a peace support program involving 18 United Nations agencies to achieve quick, targeted, and visible improvements in people's lives, fostering trust and confidence in peace processes. It serves to bridge the gap between the pressing need for rapid interventions to consolidate peace and the longer-term objectives of the 3RF.

Additionally, with the support of the United Nations, a National Rehabilitation Commission was established within the National Demobilization and Reintegration Framework Programme in November 2022. The Commission's mandate includes demobilizing and reintegrating approximately 371,971 ex-combatants from regions including Tigray, Oromia, Amhara, Afar, Benishangul/Gumuz, SNNP, and Gambella, which makes the scale of DDR in Ethiopia one of the largest globally. It is presumed that with ongoing peace talks and new peace agreements being reached with groups, the numbers may increase.

Key achievements in support of peace building efforts during the reporting period included:



The establishment of the National Rehabilitation Commission



Joint resource mobilization efforts with the GoE with the establishment of a trust fund for DDR contributions from development partners



Regional consultations by the National Rehabilitation Commission on DDR and a national DDR round table with development partners formed



Development of the National DDR Framework for the GoE



Customization of the DDR software for the Ethiopian DDR programme

¹⁰ 3RF in conflict-impacted areas, an assessment and planning process, launched in February 2022 under the technical coordination of the World Bank and leadership of the Ministry of Finance, is under development.

Support to the national dialogue process

Ethiopia has initiated a national dialogue process aimed at addressing the historical and current contested political, economic, and social issues within the country. This effort follows the establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) in December 2021. According to Proclamation no. 1265/2021, the ENDC has been mandated with a three-year timeframe to facilitate the dialogue process, which is anticipated to foster healing and reconciliation among Ethiopians. The national dialogue process aims to tackle issues ranging from historical contestations and human rights violations to the profound impacts of the recent conflict.

Recognizing the need for technical expertise, the GoE sought support from the United Nations, leading to the development of a three-year project framework, including methodologies for community consultations and training on the national dialogue process. To mobilize resources, a project trust fund was established, resulting in USD 12 million raised during the reporting period. In addition to the significant resources allocated by the GoE, international NGOs such as the Berghof Foundation have been engaged to facilitate the process effectively.

The United Nations support to ENDC facilitated the development of a comprehensive national peace architecture, including the ENDC Strategic Plan (2015–17 EC), a communication and media strategy, and internal operational procedures. This assistance was

instrumental in expediting crucial preparatory activities for the dialogue. Notably, given the unprecedented nature of ENDC's formation, significant strides were made in enhancing its institutional capacity.

A dialogue methodology was meticulously crafted, covering geographic mapping, participant selection, agenda setting, and facilitator selection. This methodology underwent extensive consultation with diverse segments of society, involving 15 consecutive preparatory consultations with 1,380 participants, including 230 women and 1,150 men. International best practices, shared by partners like the Berghof Foundation and Inclusive Peace, offered invaluable insights, enabling ENDC commissioners and technical staff to leverage global experiences tailored to the Ethiopian context.

In May 2023, the dialogue process was officially launched through a bottom-up participant selection and agenda-collection process, scheduled for completion by July 2023. Three regional states (Sidama, South West Ethiopia, and Harari) and Dire Dawa City Administration actively participated in the dialogue, with similar processes underway in Gambella and Benishangul/Gumuz regional states. This initial outreach to regional and zonal levels provided ENDC with valuable lessons and experiences, informing the implementation of the process. Subsequently, these methodologies will be replicated in the remaining regions.



To mobilize resources, a project trust fund was established, resulting in **USD 12 million** raised during the reporting period.



Using a newly developed dialogue methodology

15 extensive consultations were held with

1,380 participants

including **230** women and **1,150** men

Enhancing rule of law and good governance

The United Nations has initiated two significant projects aimed at bolstering electoral processes and democratic governance in Ethiopia, allocating USD 35 million for electoral support and USD 25 million for enhancing democratic governance. These projects, spanning from 2023 to 2027, aim to capitalize on the lessons learned from the 2021 elections. In partnership with NEBE, the United Nations has facilitated the completion of recommendations stemming from a comprehensive multi-stakeholder review of the previous election. This support has enabled NEBE to initiate activities based on these recommendations, thereby strengthening its coordination with electoral stakeholders even during non-election periods. NEBE has embarked on defining its strategic direction for the upcoming general elections, with a focus on aligning with national digitalization priorities. Notably, a pilot digitalization process for the voter registry has been completed, providing valuable insights to inform decision-making for future elections. To foster inclusive electoral processes, the United Nations has supported the development of a gender mainstreaming guideline. Additionally, research has been conducted to analyse the characteristics and trends of violence against women in elections, aiming to address and mitigate such challenges effectively.

In November 2018, the Federal Supreme Court embarked on a series of comprehensive judicial reforms aimed at enhancing judicial independence, strengthening the rule of law, and improving efficiency and accountability within the justice system. These reforms have been instrumental in ensuring access to justice for citizens, bolstering the integrity and credibility of the judiciary, and restoring public trust in the legal system. During the reporting period, significant strides were made in implementing these reforms. Notably, efforts were focused on creating a pioneering Ethiopian GBV Bench Book, offering comprehensive guidance on handling GBV cases, documenting precedents, and ensuring consistent judicial practices. Federal Supreme Court representatives and key stakeholders validated this initiative, which also included enhancing judges' knowledge and skills in adjudicating GBV crimes. To

promote legal awareness among the public, a series of 28 weeks of television and radio programming was conducted, emphasizing the importance of the rule of law. Furthermore, legal aid was extended to 75 cases involving children, along with providing 25 DNA tests for children when mandated by the courts.

A sensitization workshop on children's rights within Ethiopia's legal framework was convened for the Federal Supreme Court, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to safeguarding the rights of vulnerable populations. The enhancement of Court Annexed Mediation Centres has played a crucial role in improving access to justice, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged individuals. To bolster the rule of law and access to justice, justice offices were rehabilitated in three targeted woredas, facilitating the reinstatement of legal order and ensuring access to justice. Moreover, various initiatives were undertaken to enhance national capacities in restoring the rule of law and addressing human rights issues. A comprehensive training program benefited 2,339 individuals, including 474 women and 1,865 men, covering topics such as human rights, conflict prevention and management, peacebuilding, and combating human trafficking and illicit trade in weapons and currency. In border areas of the targeted regions, peace committees were established, and peace conferences and dialogues were organized to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts, with the participation of 1,905 community members, including 122 women and 1,783 men. These initiatives collectively contribute to fostering a more just and peaceful society in Ethiopia.



Promotion of human rights

The United Nations collaborated with the GoE and civil society actors to advance accountability through both judicial and non-judicial measures, a key recommendation stemming from the 2021 EHRC-OHCHR Joint Investigation Report on the Tigray Conflict. This support facilitated the integration of human rights norms and principles into the development of a comprehensive transitional justice policy, a crucial component of the COHA.

Significant progress has been made, including the inclusion of human rights considerations in the draft transitional justice policy options ("green paper"), which serves as a pivotal document shaping the policy's content. Furthermore, human rights norms were mainstreamed into more than 60 government-led consultations conducted nationwide. These efforts ensured that the voices and aspirations of conflict-affected populations, including women, persons with disabilities, and refugees, were heard concerning reparations, criminal prosecutions, truth-seeking, and the prevention of future violations.

As a result of the United Nations' intensified efforts, a total of 379 documented human rights violations affecting 3,421 individuals in Ethiopia have been

identified. These violations encompass grave offenses such as killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture, kidnappings, and other harmful acts perpetrated against human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists. The United Nations advocacy efforts successfully led to the release of 654 arbitrarily detained individuals, comprising 126 women and 528 men.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, 94 participants (30 women and 64 men) received training on applying a human rights-based approach to early warning systems. These sessions equipped participants with the skills to identify key human rights issues, conduct stakeholder mappings, analyse risk factors, and recognize the roles of civil society and community-based organizations in conflict prevention and addressing human rights violations. Notably, six community-based early warning networks were established in the Amhara, Afar, Sidama, and Oromia regions, generating over 300 alerts on human rights issues and developments in their respective areas. This proactive approach has significantly contributed to strengthening prevention measures and facilitating early responses to human rights violations.



Commander Tenagne Woldu, Head of Metu Prison in Illibabor Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia, receiving a recognition for her leadership in improving the prison conditions.

Source: UNODC, 2022

Meet Commander Tenagne Woldu, head of Metu prison in Illibabor Zone, in the Oromia State Prison Commission. Due to her leadership and management efforts, the prison is one of the best in the country. The prison facility owns an extensive farm as well as a public park, and has been able to develop and maintain very close engagement with the local community. The prison thrives despite various challenges, such as its location in a remote area, 600 km from Addis Ababa, and the limited resources it must operate on. In recognition of her leadership, she was presented with an award during the fourteenth Prison Commissioners Conference in Jimma in August 2022.

The United Nations supports the federal and regional prison commissioners' annual consultations which discuss a strategic prison reform agenda in Ethiopia. The annual consultations serve as a forum of coordination, networking and experience-sharing, while fostering the role of leadership in prison reform that focuses on rehabilitation to build a humane prison system in Ethiopia. Commander Tenagne is a testament to how one person can make a difference.

Media support

The Ethiopian Media Authority's capacity for media monitoring has been significantly bolstered through targeted training initiatives. A total of 71 staff members underwent comprehensive training on key legislative frameworks, including the 2021 Media Proclamation, the 2020 Anti-Hate Speech and Disinformation Prevention Proclamation, and the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This training, which brought together key regulators from various departments, focused on crucial areas such as media monitoring, legal services, compliance management, licensing, and registration. The effective implementation of the Media Proclamation is expected to enhance freedom of expression, offering better protection compared to previous laws.

The UNCT Hate Speech Task Force has undertaken significant efforts to combat hate speech and disinformation in Ethiopia. Capacity development and advocacy initiatives targeting youth have been instrumental, with activities organized in partnership with other organizations. Events such as dialogues on the International Day of Peace and the International Day for Countering Hate Speech provided platforms for discussions on the drivers of hate speech, mitigation strategies, and opportunities for intervention. A network of partnership has been established among youth clubs, tech companies, fact checkers, and other organizations to facilitate coordinated action against hate speech and disinformation, benefiting over 25 million people.

Furthermore, support from the United Nations and partners has empowered community radio stations in Ethiopia to advocate for peace at the grassroots level. Thirty-three community radio stations have received

training on information verification, fact-checking, and peace radio programming, enabling them to disseminate inclusive and professional content with verified information. Additionally, 28 radio stations promote peace through model radio programs developed in Amharic and Affan Oromo languages. Manuals on editorial processes and gender equality have been provided to guide radio stations in producing high-quality programs on development, social issues, and community concerns.



The national celebration of World Press Freedom Day in 2023, organized in collaboration with the Ethiopian Media Council and other media partners, provided a platform for discussing challenges to freedom of expression in Ethiopia. More than 80 representatives from various media stakeholders and partners convened under the theme "Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Rights" to deliberate on the evolving media landscape and its impact on the protection and advancement of rights, particularly for women and people with disabilities. Participants emphasized the need for collaboration among journalists, media organizations, and the government to strengthen freedom of expression, media freedom, and journalist safety.



Outcome III: 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 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) connected to domestic and global supply chains; low productivity and value addition; weak market integration; an improving social protection system that still requires considerable investment; and low domestic resource mobilization.

The United Nations focused on advocating for structural transformation in promoting economic development by providing support to the informal sector in urban areas; 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; and strengthening and expanding social protection programmes targeting the working poor and those most at risk.





Ms Kalkidan Getu,
manager of a honey farm
in IAIPs in Sidama.
*Source: UNIDO Ethiopia,
2022*

Sweet success: How a small honey processing firm found big success through agro-industry solutions

Haile Getu is a honey farmer from the town of Mejo in the Hararoresa area of Sidama Region. In 2021, Haile invested in the Yirgalem integrated agro-industrial park (IAIP). He moved into a 1.5 km² processing shed where he set up his processing machines. Today, the processing centre is managed by his daughter, Kalkidan Getu.

Kalkidan explained that the company had previously tried working in agricultural clusters, but that the services available at the park are superior. The international exposure has also benefited the business. The company employs 64 permanent staff and 12 temporary staff. It sources its honey from 67 apiculture associations around the region.

The manufacturing facility collects between 230,000 and 250,000 kg of honey on an annual basis, of which 85 per cent is processed pure natural honey and sold domestically. Haile notes that he expects revenues to be about ETB 10 million in 2022 (USD 185,500).

With a new line of credit in late 2022, Kalkidan explains that the company plans to purchase additional processing machines and double production to roughly 500,000 kg per year. The production increase will not only create more employment in the factory, but will have a knock-on effect for honey producers across the region.

Job creation and support to MSMEs

The United Nations has been actively involved in strengthening the capacity of national institutions within the economic sector to enhance job opportunities. One of the key initiatives has been providing industry-specific training on the production of agricultural products and fostering connections with companies in Integrated-agro Industrial Parks (IAIPs).

Moreover, capacity assessments were conducted for 18 supported government institutions, alongside additional studies covering various aspects such as manufacturing incentives, Rural Transformation Centre (RTC) utilization, circular economy strategies, water treatment plants, and food safety assessments along the value chain.



Training youth in technical maintenance of sewing garment machines as part of capacity building and job creation for youth and women in the textile sector in migration prone areas of Ethiopia.

Source: UNIDO, 2023

Support to IAIPs has included the establishment of mechanisms for preventing, mitigating, and responding to GBV, as well as mini one-stop centers. Internship programs for female students at IAIPs/RTCs have been facilitated, alongside tripartite agreements and dialogues among companies, workers, and government bodies. Childcare facilities have also been furnished to foster more inclusive and conducive working environments within the IAIPs. Additionally, investment promotion events have been organized to attract investments into the parks, thereby promoting job creation.

To further strengthen MSMEs and broaden job opportunities, the United Nations implemented a project on MSME ecosystem development. This included supporting the establishment of a business emergency unit under the Ministry of Labour and Skills, aimed at assisting businesses and communities affected by crises for recovery and revitalization, with a focus on youth and women. Wage subsidies were provided to 194 formal MSMEs, employing a total of 1,148 individuals (69 percent youth), while grant support was extended to 999 individuals (607 women and 392 men) engaged in informal businesses in the Somali and Addis Ababa regions. These efforts have contributed significantly to fostering economic resilience, promoting job creation, and supporting income generation, particularly among youth and women entrepreneurs.

Tailored support has been provided to MSMEs to enhance their skills and bolster their productivity. This support has included training programs tailored to the specific needs of each MSME, focusing on areas such as business plan development and establishing connections with microfinance institutions to

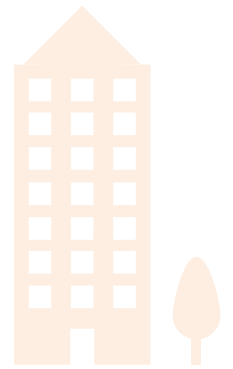
access loans. Additionally, mentoring support has been provided in collaboration with the Enterprise Development Centre, aiding MSMEs in refining their business strategies and operations. Furthermore, equipment, gears, and tools have been supplied to MSMEs to facilitate their production processes and improve efficiency. Agreements have been forged with various institutions to spur job creation and enhance existing employment opportunities across different sectors, including small and medium enterprises, farmer cooperative unions, and government institutions involved in job creation initiatives.

As a result of these efforts, a total of 49 MSMEs have received support, leading to the creation of 724 new jobs (202 for women and 522 for men) and the improvement of existing positions within IAIP catchment areas, with a notable representation of both women and men in the workforce. Moreover, vocational skills training has been provided to 500 returnee migrant workers across eight different occupations, enabling them to secure employment in local labor markets in regions such as Amhara, Oromia, and Addis Ababa. In addition to vocational training, another 500 returnee migrant workers, predominantly women, have received comprehensive business skills training. This has equipped them with the knowledge and tools necessary to either establish new businesses or enhance existing ones. Each participant also received a cash grant of USD 200 as seed capital, aligned with their business plans, and was connected with banks to access further financial support through loans. These initiatives have empowered returnee migrant workers to become self-reliant entrepreneurs and contribute to economic growth and stability within their communities.

By strengthening their resilience and capacity to navigate uncertainties, MSMEs can continue to play a vital role in providing employment opportunities essential for advancing the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the United Nations, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, organized a workshop focused on enhancing entrepreneurship for SDGs among MSMEs in Ethiopia. The primary objective of the workshop was to advocate for a conducive policy environment that would unlock the full potential of MSMEs, thereby accelerating progress towards Ethiopia's development goals. The initiative aimed to enhance entrepreneurial competencies among MSME proprietors, with a particular emphasis on women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Fund and the Development Account, the workshop brought together 59 participants, including MSME entrepreneurs and officials from both national and subnational levels across 11 regions of the country.

Furthermore, the United Nations supported the Ethiopian Entrepreneurship Development Institute in tailoring its training materials to suit the specific needs and characteristics of SMEs in Bahir Dar, Hawassa, and Asela. Leveraging these customized materials, entrepreneurship training was delivered to a total of 980 SMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs in these three towns. Additionally, 868 young individuals, including graduates and unemployed youth, received specialized training on youth entrepreneurship and employability. Moreover, the initiative aimed at strengthening the capacities of university faculty members, with entrepreneurship training and training of trainers (ToT) programs conducted for 202 selected staff members. Subsequently, a ToT session was organized for 105 staff members in the aforementioned towns. To further support entrepreneurial endeavours, the establishment of incubation centres is currently underway in Bahir Dar, Hawassa, and Asela. These centres will focus on various areas such as vegetable processing, food microbiology, and oil and alcohol processing, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with essential resources and support to launch and scale their businesses effectively.

The United Nations collaborated with the GoE to launch employment services and labour-market programs aimed at facilitating access to quality employment opportunities for young individuals, initially piloting the initiative in the Amhara Region. With funding from the German Government, this support is set to expand and enhance similar programs in the Sidama and other regions. In the Sidama Region, the operational Yirgalem Employment Services Facilitation Centre was established, while a comparable centre was also set up at the regional level in the Amhara Region to



streamline existing employment services centres and one-stop services centres in the area. Notably, the regional Yirgalem Employment Services Facilitation Centre successfully facilitated the placement of 167 job seekers (141 females and 26 males) into decent jobs within the agroprocessing sector.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), polytechnics, TVET training colleges, and private sectors, support was extended to develop a handbook outlining core skills necessary for the agroprocessing sector's trainees and trainers. This initiative aims to bolster the employability of young men and women while simultaneously boosting productivity in the agribusiness domain. Additionally, a ToT program was conducted for 30 experts, including both men and women, from TVET colleges, polytechnics, and other relevant stakeholders operating in the agroprocessing sector across the Amhara and Sidama regions. This training, focused on core skills, reached a total of 459 young individuals (206 women and 253 men) involved in the agroprocessing industry. These efforts also encompass plans to implement collaborative measures between bureaus and institutions to enhance service delivery and address the transition to quality employment effectively.

Pre-investment support was extended to 48 MSMEs to bolster their capacity in attracting external finance from both lenders and equity investors, thereby enhancing their access to funds for business expansion and growth. Additionally, 101 MSMEs received assistance in creating Google Business Profiles, a move aimed at establishing their online presence, fostering trust with lenders and customers, and facilitating relevant connections.

Various activities were undertaken to restore livelihoods in conflict-affected areas in Afar, Amhara and Tigray, including the maintenance of 20 market sheds, training sessions for 1,402 individuals (510 women and 982 men) on entrepreneurship and business skills, and the provision of cash grants to 492 beneficiaries to support their businesses and livelihoods.

Bridging the SME finance gap

Alongside the National Bank of Ethiopia, the United Nations has collaborated to establish the Innovative Finance Lab (IFL), which was launched in October 2022 to address the financing gap encountered by SMEs poised for growth. The IFL comprises several components, including the Technical Assistance Facility, the Enterprise Financing Facility, the Knowledge Sharing Unit, and a ground-breaking regulatory sandbox. Guided by an advisory board co-chaired by the Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, the IFL receives input from essential ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Skills, and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, as well as contributions from international organizations, local financial institutions, and the private sector.

During the reporting period, the Technical Assistance Facility supported 100 SMEs with specialized pre- and post-investment assistance. The Enterprise Financing Facility, designed to revolutionize funding for Ethiopian SMEs and start-ups, offers investment opportunities not typically available through conventional banking channels. It operates in two strategic phases: an initial short-term investment preparation phase providing immediate capital for growth, followed by a long-term fund of funds model. Approved by the IFL Advisory Board, this structure offers various financial instruments to support businesses at different stages of maturity,

Modernizing business sectors

A novel partnership model project aimed at mitigating investment risks in the Ethiopian coffee sector has been launched, offering both grants and a concessional loan (EUR 10 million) to the Government of Ethiopia. This initiative supports various aspects, including equipment provision, workspace facilitation, enterprise-specific skill training, business and financial management training, and business plan development, while also facilitating linkages with microfinance institutions. The Coffee Training Centre in Addis Ababa has been fully operationalized as part of this endeavour. In collaboration with the United Nations, efforts have been directed towards fostering agribusiness development in the coffee sector and modernizing agribusiness through digital technologies. These advancements enable coffee farmers to engage with agritech companies and utilize tailored digital solutions. Over 5,000 smallholder coffee farmers have received training on best practices in coffee farming, covering aspects such as land preparation, seedling planting, intercropping, soil conservation, and shade management. Five coffee cooperatives were supported to showcase their products at the World of Coffee Dubai show, resulting in productive B2B interactions and the generation of business leads. Additionally, six coffee

aiming to create a sustainable and diverse portfolio that fuels enterprise growth and scalability.

The regulatory sandbox, developed in collaboration with the National Bank of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority, represents a significant leap towards fostering a dynamic financial services sector. This controlled environment enables the prudent testing of new financial technologies and business models, ensuring their suitability for the market and their ability to enhance financial inclusion for underserved segments. It serves as a platform where regulation evolves alongside innovation, ensuring that new financial solutions are both effective and secure.

IFL signifies a strategic commitment to Ethiopia's economic rejuvenation, with a particular focus on SMEs and start-ups. By providing tailored financial solutions, IFL aims to bridge the critical financing gap for these entities, thereby nurturing a robust business environment. Its impact is manifold, enhancing the entrepreneurial landscape, supporting Ethiopia's broader financial reform objectives, and aligning with the United Nations' goals for sustainable and inclusive economic development. The efforts of IFL are instrumental in shaping a prosperous future for Ethiopia's burgeoning business sectors.

unions received guidance from US sales advisors to strengthen existing buyer relationships and explore new market opportunities. To enhance local capacity, training sessions were conducted for 18 participants, including staff members of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, focusing on economic chain organization, coffee production, and market fundamentals. Furthermore, two coffee cooperative unions and two roasters were facilitated to participate in the World of Coffee Athens event in June 2023, fostering networking and market expansion opportunities on an international platform.



**EUR 10 million grant
and concessional loan
generated for Ethiopian
coffee sector**



Technical capacity building support to the leather sector in Ethiopia.
Source: UNIDO, 2023

Fourteen tech companies received support in formulating their export marketing plans, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and export potential in the information technology outsourcing (ITO) and business process outsourcing (BPO) sector. These tailored plans serve as comprehensive roadmaps, guiding ITO/BPO firms in navigating domestic, regional, and global markets, facilitating the identification of internal and external business opportunities. Additionally, the inaugural ICT and BPO directory have been meticulously compiled and published, featuring detailed profiles of each company. This directory serves as a valuable resource for promoting these firms at international trade fairs and to prospective buyers, thereby amplifying their visibility on the global stage. Furthermore, assistance was extended in establishing the Ethiopia Outsourcing Association, from its conceptualization to its official launch. This association collaborates closely with the government to streamline regulations, creating an enabling environment for the sector's growth. Moreover, it plays a pivotal role in promoting member companies in foreign markets and cultivating a supportive ecosystem from various angles.

The United Nations extended capacity-development assistance to the textile industry to foster job creation. Thirty-three experts from the Addis Ababa City Administration underwent training to enhance their capacity in facilitating the creation of decent employment opportunities for unemployed youth and women. Moreover, a group of 20 trainers from TVET institutions and garment industries received ToT sessions, specifically focusing on equipping unemployed youth and women with essential skills. Furthermore, unemployed youth and women were provided training on basic sewing machine operation

and subsequently connected with garment industries to access decent job opportunities.

The United Nations facilitated access to technology in the development of the leather value chain by introducing improved slaughterhouse machines, tools, and equipment to beneficiary abattoirs located in Adama, Modjo, Bishoftu, and Addis Ababa. This technology plays a crucial role in maintaining the quality of hides and skins, which serve as raw materials for the leather processing industries. Moreover, it contributes to increasing the income generated by businesses along the supply chain, including abattoirs, hide and skin collectors, warehouses, tanneries, and leather product manufacturers. In line with the industry's need for sustainable practices to remain competitive in terms of product quality and environmental compliance within the global leather value chain, the United Nations supports beneficiary tanneries. This support includes ensuring the quality of leather products and environmental sustainability by establishing a satellite laboratory in Modjo City, where many tanneries operate. The laboratory provides local tanneries with testing and training services, with installed testing equipment, machines, chemicals, and trained laboratory technicians. Recognizing the leather sector's significant role in creating access to decent jobs, employment, and livelihood opportunities, the United Nations has provided support to SMEs through a cluster approach.

Over 120 young individuals have been engaged in business and practical training programs designed to equip them with the necessary skills for successfully managing a footwear and leather goods manufacturing cooperative. A common manufacturing facility has undergone renovation and is now prepared for

operation, pending the installation of machinery. To enhance the export performance of the leather sector, the United Nations has collaborated with the Ministry of Industry to develop a comprehensive leather sector-export strategy. Additionally, efforts have been made to promote gender mainstreaming within the leather industry, including conducting a gender analysis to identify industry gaps and sharing recommendations with relevant stakeholders. As part of this initiative, beneficiary abattoirs and tanneries are establishing gender working groups, and the Ethiopian Leather Industries Association has prioritized gender balance in its Board composition. Furthermore, in alignment with the global campaign to combat GBV, the United Nations organized a week-long campaign targeting beneficiary tanneries, abattoirs, SMEs, and hide and skins traders. This campaign aimed to increase awareness and commitment among industry stakeholders to prevent and respond effectively to various forms of GBV.

To ensure a safe and dignified working environment in the leather industry, the United Nations conducted an Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) risk assessments which was validated by key stakeholders, including government representatives and industry beneficiaries. Additionally, the United Nations collaborated with the Ethiopian Enterprises Development and Modjo City Administration to celebrate the United Nations International Day of MSMEs. The theme of the

celebration, "Galvanizing MSMEs worldwide by supporting women and youth entrepreneurship and resilient supply chains," was effectively disseminated through various channels, including mainstream media, social media platforms, and websites.

Moreover, the United Nations facilitated the participation of stakeholders from the leather sector value chain in national and international trade fairs, such as the Africa Sourcing Fashion Week, All Africa Leather Fair, and Let Ethiopia Produce Expo, providing them with valuable exposure and networking opportunities.

In the livestock sector, the United Nations provided capacity-strengthening support to 161 government staff members, of which 27 were female and 134 were male, who are responsible for ensuring food safety in meat value chains. Additionally, normative and policy support was extended to the sector, resulting in the revision of the Meat Inspection Proclamation and meat inspection regulation legal frameworks. The United Nations contributed to the development of the Ethiopian meat inspectors' training program curriculum and conducted two studies on the Ethiopian meat industry: a mapping and baseline study, and a comparative study on Ethiopian meat and market requirements for meat products, including export considerations for the Chinese market.

Support to tech start-ups and digital entrepreneurs

The United Nations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MIiT) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, has been actively supporting the technology sector and young innovators to develop indigenous solutions and bolster their economic contribution, aligning with the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. Since 2021, the United Nations has provided support to 168 growth-oriented entrepreneurs and tech solutions through various initiatives such as Tifter Ethiopia, ETdeed, Innovation Excellence Award, Bruh, Ahun, research commercialization grants, and the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund (CRGF). This support encompasses small-sized grants (seed funding), innovation challenge funds, and loans facilitated by the CRGF. Participating startups and digital entrepreneurs have undergone incubation programs designed to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and equip them to thrive in the dynamic local and global business landscape.

A key strategic focus for the United Nations has been to enhance coordination and collaboration among stakeholders within Ethiopia's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, while also advocating for policies that foster an enabling business environment. In pursuit of this objective, the Digital Start-up Marketplace 2023 was organized in February 2023 at the newly inaugurated Science and Art Museum in Addis Ababa. This event featured an open exhibition showcasing 54 digital start-ups, along with three side events hosted by partners, providing a platform for relevant stakeholders to connect and engage in discussions on opportunities and challenges within the ecosystem. Attended by over 1,000 participants from various regions, the event served as a catalyst for fostering innovation and collaboration in Ethiopia's burgeoning tech landscape.



Enkopa Summit, attended by state ministers from MoLS and MInT.
Source: UNDP Ethiopia, 2023

Enkopa Summit is a brand/platform initiated and supported by the United Nations and MoLS on digital entrepreneurship to accelerate business network development. During the reporting period, the summit convened over 2,000 participants, 40 exhibitors, 150 speakers and 50 investors.

In May 2023, as part of a collaborative project with the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the United Nations unveiled a country report on gender equality in digital policy in Ethiopia¹¹. This report underscored the significance of digital skills for women and facilitated an exchange of experiences among project beneficiaries, particularly in the fashion and textile industry. Moreover, a training session was conducted, which focused on narrowing the mobile gender gap, engaging 30 policymakers. In April 2023, over 20 girls from various schools and stakeholders convened to celebrate Girls in ICT Day. This event provided a platform for sharing information on initiatives and opportunities, particularly within schools, aimed at fostering the development of digital skills and bridging the digital gender divide.

Under the auspices of the National Digital Capacity Coalition, the United Nations, in collaboration with the MInT, organized four stakeholder engagement sessions. These sessions encompassed stocktaking and co-creation exercises, allowing stakeholders to exchange

information and experiences on digital capacity initiatives, thereby identifying linkages and synergies for enhancing digital capacity in Ethiopia. The United Nations also contributed to the formulation of the Digital Education Strategy in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Similarly, initial steps were taken to advance digital financial inclusion, focusing on capacity-building for the adoption of digital financial services and reinforcing consumer protection measures.

Efforts were also concentrated on enhancing connectivity and promoting digital inclusion for all, including refugees in Ethiopia. A joint scoping mission conducted in southern Ethiopia, particularly in Melkadida, and a subsequent round-table discussion held in July 2022, highlighted the transformative potential of digitalization and the importance of universal and meaningful connectivity in empowering refugees and host communities alike, thus transforming their livelihoods.

¹¹ International Telecommunication Union, *Gender equality in digital policy in Ethiopia* (Geneva, Switzerland, ITU Publications, 2023). Available at www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-phcb-equal-03-2023.

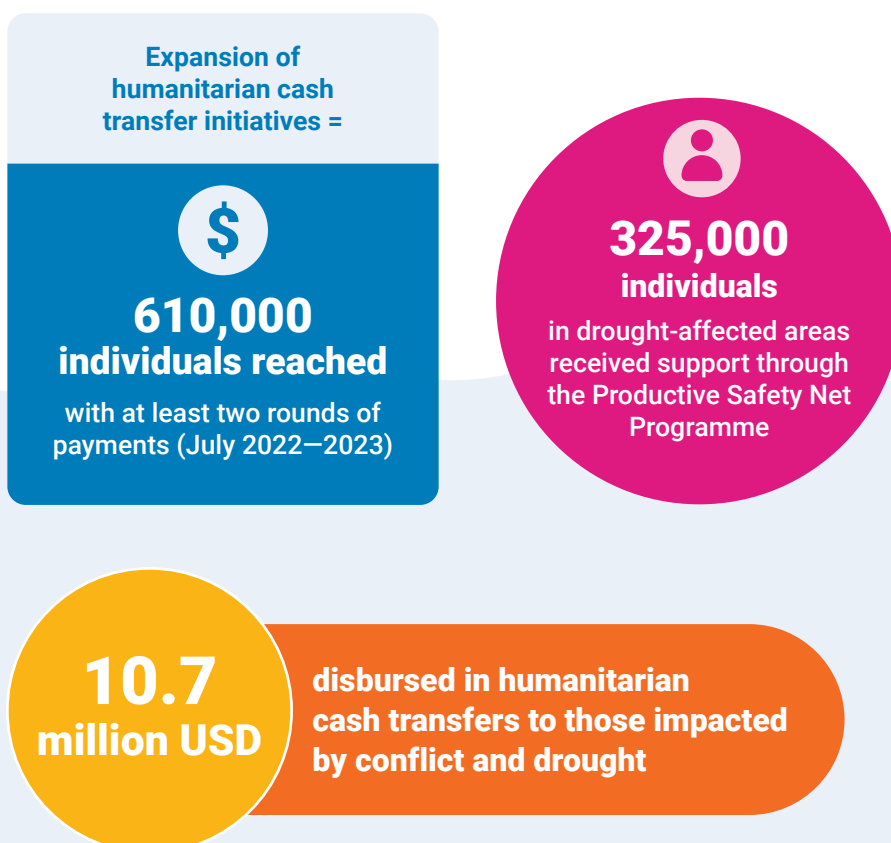
Social protection

The United Nations significantly expanded its humanitarian cash transfer initiatives to assist vulnerable populations affected by conflict, drought, and floods, reaching over 610,000 individuals with at least two rounds of payments between July 2022 and June 2023. In regions such as Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, and Somali, a total of USD 10.7 million was disbursed in humanitarian cash transfers to those impacted by conflict and drought. Moreover, an additional 325,000 vulnerable individuals in drought-affected areas received support through the Productive Safety Net Programme.

Furthermore, the United Nations provided technical assistance to the GoE in enhancing the policy

framework and coordination related to social protection. Notably, during the reporting period, efforts were made to revise the Social Protection Policy and Strategy to ensure alignment with the Ten-Year Development Plan and enhance its responsiveness to the evolving needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Additionally, recognizing the importance of preserving heritage properties and supporting affected communities, the United Nations allocated USD 60,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund for this purpose. This comprehensive approach underscores the organization's commitment to addressing immediate humanitarian needs while also promoting long-term resilience and sustainability in Ethiopia.





Yengus Misgan, a mother of six children, says the humanitarian cash transfer programme came at a time when she needed it most. With the small grant, she was able to buy critical essentials for her children.¹²

Source: UNICEF Ethiopia, 2022

Helping communities recover and rebuild

Inside her bullet-scarred mud house, Yengus Misgan contemplates the “bad days” while holding her four-month-old baby. She lost her husband to the conflict that caused upheaval to the lives of many in the small village of Arbit and other surrounding villages of the North Wollo Zone. Like Yengus, many lost their loved ones and livelihoods.

“He was the provider, a hard-working father who would do everything to see his children happy,” Yengus remembers her beloved husband, with tears in her eyes. He was returning from his farm when a mortar shell struck him down.

The conflict in northern Ethiopia has shattered the lives of many. North Wollo Zone is one of the worst-affected areas.

To help families recover and rebuild, UNICEF, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, started a humanitarian cash transfer programme in conflict-affected areas of the Amhara Region in July last year. The programme aims to contribute to the household food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable families, especially those headed by women. It also gives them the option to spend the money based on their needs and priorities. The Amhara Region Women and Social Affairs Office does the overall coordination and selection of beneficiaries, while UNICEF provides technical support and supervision.

So far, in the Amhara Region, UNICEF provided ETB 180 million (USD 3.5 million) in humanitarian cash, benefiting close to 60,000 conflict-affected people, mainly women and children.

Yengus has also benefited from the programme. “When we returned home after the fighting eased, we didn’t have anything to eat. I am glad that I got the grant. I bought a sack of grain. I also bought clothes and books for my children,” she explains.

¹² The full story is available at www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/helping-communities-recover-and-rebuild.



Outcome IV: Environmental protection and climate change

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

Under this outcome, the United Nations set out to target specific 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.

The United Nations focused on assisting Ethiopia to strengthen the knowledge and institutional base for climate and disaster risk reduction and management, including through strengthening multi-hazard early warning and early action systems; 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; 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.



Yasin Muhumad Faarah, a 70-year-old farmer, village elder and community leader, is among the beneficiaries of an ILO project entitled “Enhancing Disaster Resilience through Employment-Intensive Waterworks in Jigjiga and Kebribeyah”.¹³

Source: ILO, 2023

Changing flash floods into farming opportunities¹⁴

Hare 2 Kebele is a drought-prone area characterized by low rainfall and high temperatures, and is repeatedly affected by flash floods from the adjacent hills. The major victims of the floods are predominantly those households with farms and pastureland in the low-lying downstream areas. This significantly impacts their livelihoods, as fertile soil is eroded, creating large gullies, destroying their crops and drowning their livestock. The combined effect renders the farm and pasture lands completely unproductive. The situation gets worse every year from the combined effects of extreme weather events and degradation in the surrounding hills. As a result, an increasing number of households are being permanently displaced as they move to other locations for better livelihood opportunities. With the technical support of the German Development Agency (GIZ), the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in close cooperation with local stakeholders has introduced a flood barrier in Shebelle woreda: water-spreading weirs (WSWs) to convert the abundance of surface water during floods into a productive resource. Wetlands International carried out similar interventions in the neighbouring woreda Gursum. WSW is a simple but innovative ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) measure that drastically slows down the speed of the run-off water and facilitates infiltration to the ground and the settling of fertile soil. It also helps to enhance moisture gradients across farming fields, consequently, improving the productivity of the land. Most people in Fafan are agropastoralists, and besides landowners, pastoralists will also benefit from the improved pasture around the areas where the WSW was constructed.

Mohamed Dahir Osman is a farmer who lives with his family of nine members in Hare 2 Kebele. He is one of the beneficiaries of the WSW built by the Eco-DRR project. With a mixed feeling of despair and hope, he said “All my relatives have suffered the adverse effects of gully formation and had to abandon their farmlands. They moved to another woreda/district. I also lost almost half of my land, and I am now just

¹³ The full story is available at <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/221720-developing-water-sources-transform-lives>.

¹⁴ The full story is available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40828>.

holding onto the remaining piece until it perishes. You feel hopeless when you see the massive reddish water encroaching on your land out of nowhere, gashing through your farmland and uprooting crops and breaking blocks of soil and in the end leaving behind a vast and degraded valley. I have seen a similar WSW constructed in another village that protected their land. It is beyond our capacity to construct a weir ourselves, and we are grateful that the Red Cross did it for us. This has renewed my hope, and I'm motivated to contribute and see that the 'flash flood-monster' is tamed and the fertility of our land returned."

Climate change mitigation and risk management

Following the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) in December 2022, the GoE launched its road map for multi-hazard impact-based early warning 2023–2030, part of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. Ethiopia was one of the 13 African countries selected for the initial implementation of EW4ALL. The United Nations, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported the launch of the initiative and the inception of the "Water at the Heart of Climate Action" partnership. These initiatives will support the GoE in translating its implementation plan for the road map into action once it is finalized, enabling the country to deliver on the EW4ALL initiative by ensuring that everyone in the country is covered by early warnings by 2026.

The United Nations, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and International Land Coalition, facilitated the organization of the COP 27 side event to raise awareness around the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2032,¹⁵ the importance of mainstreaming human rights-based approaches in climate change adaptation, mitigation and adaptation measures. The United Nations supported the engagement of the GoE in global platforms on disaster risk reduction including a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The United Nations supported the GoE in contributing to the process leading up to the high-level meeting on the Midterm Review and its outcome.

The United Nations supported the development of Ethiopia's National Framework for Weather, Water and Climate Services, which will enhance the services of the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute and Disaster Risk Management Authority. One thousand technical staff from the GoE and partners benefited from capacity-strengthening on climate change and disaster risk management at the federal, regional, zone and woreda level. The United Nations supported national, regional and woreda disaster risk management commissions and offices in strengthening early warning system and food security analysis capacities.

The United Nations provided support in the preparation of 37 woreda disaster risk profiles, the training of 60 government experts on multi-hazard and multisectoral early warning systems, the provision of 50 tablets with enhanced Internet accessibility, as well as the development of gender-responsive risk governance capacities for risk informed development planning at the federal level and in 11 regions. In addition, 33 regional and zonal staffs were trained on digital data collection and analysis (using the Rapid Pro system), and 52 woreda, zonal and regional experts were familiarized with digital data collection and database systems. 1,700 (510 female and 1,190 male) farmers benefited from United Nations support on resilient recovery of vulnerable households and 980 (784 female and 196 male) individuals were able to develop small businesses resilient to shocks.

On environmental standards, the United Nations provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture to integrate disaster risk reduction measures into agricultural development planning and investments. Efforts were made to integrate environmental measures for risk reduction into key policies and frameworks.

¹⁵ African Union, *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)* (Addis Ababa, 2022), available at <https://au.int/en/documents/20220628/african-union-climate-change-and-resilient-development-strategy-and-action-plan>.



A seed of hope: IOM's community-based livelihood support provides communities with opportunities to increase resilience to climate change, while generating income in Amhara Region.

Source: IOM, 2022

Resilient recovery support

In the Somali Region, the United Nations provided support in resilience building and food systems strengthening through integrated irrigated agriculture using solar-powered irrigation infrastructures, allowing 10,735 agropastoralists constituting mainly the host community and refugees to cultivate 1,356 hectares. Fifty thousand half-moons have been dug to enable regeneration of natural resource and increase productivity of 300 hectares of degraded rangeland. Four thousand trees and shrubs have been planted near the half-moons to provide natural fencing, fruits, shade and other environmental benefits.

In the Gambella and Amhara regions, as part of integrated resilience building and food systems interventions, the United Nations supported the establishment of 2,117 savings and loan groups to enhance financial inclusion through increasing knowledge on financial literacy and business management skills so that smallholders could engage in livelihood diversification and income-generating activities. In Gambella, 5,000 metric tons of maize were procured from smallholder farmers (through aggregators) under a local and regional food procurement programme. In Amhara, close to 12,000 shoats and 83,000 chickens were supplied to 3,879 beneficiary households in addition to 9,000 orange-fleshed potato cuttings as part of the early recovery and livelihood rehabilitation.

The United Nations has supported 67,324 smallholder farming households and agropastoralists by practising and facilitating access to climate-smart practices including the distribution of 126 metric tons of seeds to improve production, productivity and incomes, and ultimately enhance resilience.

The United Nations enhanced climate-informed decision-making through the installation and training on the use of 20 plastic rain gauges, allowing farmers to receive weekly information on the seasonal rain forecast of the Meher season under the Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative in the target woredas of Kersa and Meiso.

One thousand migrant returnees benefited from the United Nations community-based green initiatives, which include irrigation, environmental rehabilitation, recycling and composting, agricultural and livestock management. The United Nations contributed to raising awareness on safe, orderly and regular migration as a positive adaptation strategy to climate change, reaching 7,100 (2,899 female and 4,201 male) migrants and returnees through community conversations, school mini-media and street drama events, and nearly 3 million community members through radio media.

Following the training of 64 women and 56 men on the Start and Improve Your Business programme and green

business practices, 105 participants established green businesses on fruit and vegetables, small ruminant, mung bean and solar technology value chains, and were linked to local financial institutions to get access to fair and affordable finance.

The United Nations supported populations of drought-affected woredas to build resilience by capacitating 162 health-care providers to strengthen quality services for GBV, sexual and reproductive health in order to enable the survivors, women and girls to overcome the challenges related to the drought.

Maternal care in conflict and drought zones



Amino Bashir holds her newborn baby boy Farxan at the UNFPA-supported Dudumacad health centre. This was the fourth pregnancy, but her first safe and successful delivery. UNFPA Ethiopia, 2023.¹⁴

“Saving the life of this baby was a miracle and a blessing for my family. I am immensely grateful,” said Amino Bashir, 25, as she held her newborn.

Ms Bashir lives in Dudumacad in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, one of the areas devastated by [a gruelling drought](#) across the Horn of Africa that has affected more than 36 million people so far. This was her fourth pregnancy, but her first safe and successful delivery: the last three had all ended in heartbreak, as one died before term and the others were stillborn after she went into labour at home without any professional help.

Many health services, including for critical maternal care and family planning, are either suspended or severely limited in Ethiopia following years of conflict, drought and most recently devastating [flash flooding](#). Over 260,000 women are currently pregnant in the Somali Region alone, many of them internally displaced from recurrent, multiple crises and at dire risk of acute [undernourishment](#). Forced to migrate in search of water, food and pasture, thousands of pregnant women and new mothers are without access to even the most basic health care.

In Ms Bashir’s case, community volunteers from UNFPA’s partner the Organisation for Welfare and Development in Action were decisive in averting another stillbirth. The volunteers are reaching women through local support groups and by going door to door to raise awareness on the availability – and life-saving potential – of trained birth attendants at local health facilities.

So far in 2023, UNFPA has deployed over 200 trained midwives to support maternal and newborn health care across five conflict- and drought-affected regions of Ethiopia. Health and outreach workers as well as six maternal health mobile teams have also been deployed to increase awareness and encourage people from crisis-hit communities to seek expert medical advice and support; these services have so far reached over 300,000 women and girls.

¹⁶ The full story is available at www.unfpa.org/news/drought-and-floods-threaten-millions-ethiopia-midwives-are-lifeline-pregnant-women-and.



Omar Ali receives drought resistant seeds as part of WFP's smallholder farmer programme. In Ethiopia's Somali region, WFP utilizes innovative approaches to building the resilience for refugees and host communities.

Source: WFP, 2023

Reservation of biodiversity and natural resources

The United Nations provided support in planting 1,064 hectares of community forest and in restoring 8,718 hectares of degraded forests and landscapes. 9,368 (6,094 male and 3,266 female) individuals participated in various afforestation and reforestation interventions and trainings. 29,199 (13,740 female and 15,459 male) people were engaged in livelihood activities. Across the refugee camps, more than 800,000 tree seedlings were planted in line with the Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopia during the 2023 rainy season.

The United Nations assisted in the establishment of a cooperation platform among Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Kenya to combat illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in the region through the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network. For sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity (both fauna and flora), the United Nations supported 1,436 (733 female and 703 male) individuals in 36 cooperatives through the provision of diversified livelihood options in Chebera Churchura, Omo and Mago National Parks and Babile Elephant Sanctuary.

Through the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force (DRM-ATF), the United Nations provided support to 550,000 households whose livelihoods

were adversely affected by climate crises such as desert locust swarms, droughts and flooding. Under the Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative, the United Nations provided support to 8,500 households in Oromia Region's east and west Hararghe zones, Kersa and Mieso woredas to develop and implement their community adaptation plans to be able to make informed decisions and enhance resilience to climate hazards.

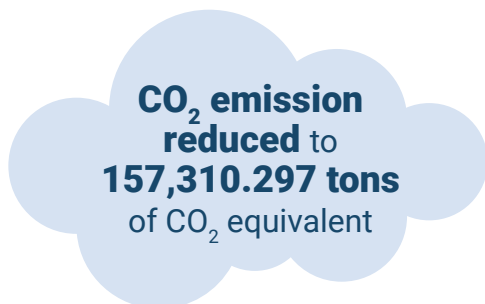
The United Nations supported the establishment of 305 Farmers Field School groups with 50 members each in the Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Sidama regions. These groups were involved in season-long participatory learning and experimentation with facilitation from development agents.

By improving rural livelihoods through the support to Moringa Value Chain Development in SNNPR, Ethiopia, 420 women have planted 16,800 moringa trees in their home yards. As the moringa is the only leafy vegetable capable of surviving drought and provides food during the lean season, the project contributes to the improvement of beneficiaries' livelihoods and dietary diversity.

Reduction of pollution and clean, renewable and sustainable energy

The United Nations supported critical diagnostic and strategy studies on the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of Ethiopia's nationally determined contribution among others in the framework of public and private partnership.

Through the Humanitarian Energy and Environment Working Group, the United Nations led the development of a Multi-Actor Cooking Fuel Strategy (2022–2030) in line with SDG 7 and national priorities. Under the South-South Cooperation Framework, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Energy and partners from China, the United Nations implemented a project on access to energy and sustainable resources consumption. Fifty thousand people in the Amhara, Harari and SNNP rural areas benefited from biogas and solar energy access. 3,441 government officials, experts and technicians (682 women and 2,729 men) benefited from services, standardized methodologies and skills for energy needs assessment, renewable energy technology system design, installation, operation, maintenance, carbon neutrality and other topics. CO₂ emission has been reduced to 157,310.297 tons of CO₂ equivalent through the productive use of renewable energy and low greenhouse gas-producing technologies in rural communities.



In collaboration with the Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority, the United Nations supported 58,608 (37,512 women and 21,096 men) people from 10 districts in accessing energy-efficient cooking stoves, biogas energy and solar lanterns. 114 enterprises (96 of which were led by women) were engaged in the production and distribution of energy-efficient cooking stoves in six project districts including Doba, Chiro, Dugna Fango, Belatezuria, Menzegera and Angolela. CO₂ emission has been reduced to 84,227 tons by renewable energy use and the use of low greenhouse gas-producing technologies in rural and urban communities. Refugees' access to alternative cooking fuel has increased to 18 percent through grid-connected communal kitchens, biomass briquettes, commercial fuelwood and fuel-efficient stoves.

The United Nations held regular events to strengthen national capacities on early warning and response systems, targeting the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and health workforce. Five climate-sensitive diseases associated with WASH (cholera, malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever and meningitis) were prioritized and a total of 14 climate-sensitive diseases surveillance sentinel sites were established to integrate health surveillance, meteorological information and other WASH services to improve early warning and response systems. In addition, the United Nations, in collaboration with government stakeholders and other development partners, implemented Forecast-based Financing in the Somali Region to enable anticipatory actions for disaster mitigation at the community and household level using credible seasonal and weather forecasts. The forecasts are linked to predetermined contingency plans, actors and funding instruments, which are used to reduce the humanitarian caseload in the critical window between a forecast and an extreme weather event. Further, 64,434 beneficiaries have been supported to take anticipatory actions to respond to the drought in the 2022 Deyr season (in October, November and December).

The United Nations has mobilized the Ministry of Water and Energy and WASH partners to revamp the Water Sector Working Group, resulting in the establishment of the secretariat with an organizational structure under the leadership of full-time coordinator by the end of 2022. The United Nations initiated groundwater mapping using satellite data, leading to an over 85 percent success rate in borehole drilling. This innovation enabled GoE to leverage USD 200 million from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the World Bank to replicate and scale up the model throughout the country.

Driven towards greener energy, the United Nations interventions led to partial or full solarization of 38 water systems, for a total solar photovoltaic capacity of over 2.4 megawatts providing water to over 1 million users in the Gambella, Afar, Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Amhara regions.

The United Nations provided support in the establishment of public platforms on urban water and air quality monitoring and reporting. In partnership with the Addis Ababa City Administration and Mega Projects Construction Office, the United Nations contributed to Addis Ababa beautification and greenery through the recruitment of highly skilled urban beautification and greenery development workers. A smart city hub was initiated along with the development of paperless and ICT-based office communication software to



Sunflowers and smiles: Abdulahi Hassen Dero, 40, a father of nine, is seen working on his sunflower farm near the Amino Irrigation scheme in Ethiopia's Somali region.

Source: WFP, 2023

promote digital technologies and big data in Addis Ababa. Twenty-five (5 women and 20 men) experts from 20 institutions in Addis Ababa responsible for infrastructure development and management received ToT on the application of GIS, Global Positioning System, remote sensing and ground-penetrating radar for infrastructure integration and management. Within the urban greening project, the United Nations assisted in the establishment of three nursery sites and the agreement of planting 600-hectare sites.

United Nations support to Ethiopia's implementation capacity of the Stockholm Convention centred around parties' commitment to the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in equipment by 2025 and in ensuring the enhancement of environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB by 2028. To this end, the PCB testing capacity of the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise was built, enabling the country to undertake such analysis within its borders at a lower cost. Governmental organizations responsible for holding suspected materials and enforcing bodies have been trained on directives issued to the phase-out of PCB and its environmentally sound management. Inventory has been taken from 1,115 transformers and analyses to eliminate them in 2024.

With United Nations support, an air quality management road map was developed supporting access to vital air pollution data, facilitating the development of a comprehensive air quality management road map. This road map plays a pivotal role in supporting the Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority's capabilities to strengthen the national-level air quality monitoring system.

The United Nations provided support to undertake a legal environment assessment for ambient air pollution and health, which focused on Ethiopia's laws, policies, proclamations, regulations, standards, guidelines and strategies related to ambient air pollution that impact pollution control and environmental health. In addition, an investment case study on air pollution and non-communicable diseases for Ethiopia was developed with the objective of providing a comprehensive understanding of the institutional and contextual factors influencing air pollution in Ethiopia, coupled with an economic analysis quantifying the disease and economic burden posed by air pollution, and the potential benefits resulting from interventions to reduce ambient air pollution and household air pollution.

Ethiopia has successfully fulfilled the transparency requirement of the Paris Agreement with the timely submission of the Third National Communication, Biennial Report and Updated Biennial Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁷ This achievement can be attributed to a series of workshops organized for technical experts and government officials at various levels. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance the reporting system, assist in greenhouse emission data collection, and establish guidelines for ensuring the quality assurance and control of data verification and report compilation. This type of institutional capacity-strengthening assistance will help to ensure that there are systems and processes in place to maintain the timely and high-quality submission of reports.

With United Nations support, the following community-level climate change adaptation and mitigation activities were conducted: rehabilitation, reforestation and restoration intervention of communities and different soil and water conservation structures such as terraces, trenches, eyebrows and gabions over an area of 215 hectares of communal land; 332 hectares of farmland and a total of 331,276 multipurpose tree species and grass species were planted, benefiting local communities from the adoption of diversified, climate-resilient livelihood options through the implementation of two borehole drillings, two river diversions and one

stream development activity. Alternative livelihoods were created through the provision of small ruminants for rearing and fattening, modern beehives with bee colonies, water harvesting technologies, improved drought-resistant varieties of crop seeds and poultry farming with technical support given to a total of 22,230 (13,120 women and 9,410 men) beneficiaries across the project woreda. To practise small business operation, a training on entrepreneurship and business skills and local livelihoods packages was provided for a total of 75 (7 women and 68 men) members of community-based enterprises, which enabled the commencement of small business operations in the project woreda, including baking, hairdressing, beekeeping and more.

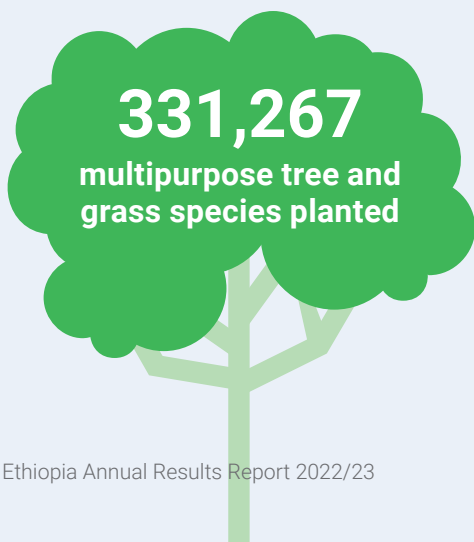
Through a workshop organized in January 2023, the United Nations provided support on mobilizing financing for sustainable forest management in Ethiopia. The workshop focused on strengthening the capacity of national experts in the process of designing a comprehensive forest financing strategy for mobilizing finance for sustainable forest management from all possible sources and the formulation of bankable project proposals for accessing funding from multilateral (especially the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund) and other sources. The workshop led to the design of a project on the sustainable management of dry forests for reducing emissions and community vulnerability in the drylands

¹⁷ Ethiopia, *Ethiopia's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* (Addis Ababa), available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/624790>.

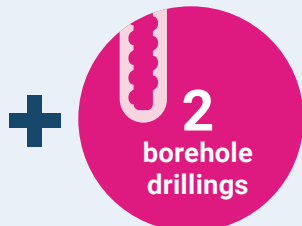
Community-level climate change adaptation and mitigation activities conducted include:



Rehabilitation



Climate-resilient livelihood options through:



of Ethiopia, which has been submitted to the Green Climate Fund through the Ministry of Finance. The United Nations also supported the drafting of a national forest financing strategy.

The United Nations supported the production of an up-to-date national standardized forest map for the years 2018 and 2023 consistent with the official forest definition adopted by the Ethiopian Forest Development team. This was the first time, using high resolution imagery (Planet NICFI Level 1), that a national scale mapping in Ethiopia was achieved. Further, a biophysical and socioeconomic study on the Green Legacy Initiative was conducted in over 60 districts in almost all regions (excluding Amhara). In collaboration with the Institute of Ethiopian Standards, draft standards have been developed on: (i) DES 7042 Wood products – lumber and purlin specification; (ii) DES 7043 Wood products – wood pole and post specification, and (iii) DES 7044 – tree nursery specification.

In line with developing a near real time monitoring of forest disturbances:

- The scaling of a subnational forest change monitoring system to the national level was made through refinement of input products (national land-use and land cover data, forest maps, etc.), calibration of change detection algorithms, and online validation of change alerts.
- An online platform (Terra-I Ethiopia) was established dedicated to forest change monitoring and the submission of forest change information in near real time. The platform enables the conduct of

statistical trend analysis, downloads of alerts, and disaggregation of alerts in different administrative levels, and essential life supporting areas (e.g. protected areas).

- A near real time forest fire communication system was developed based on the forest fire alerts derived from the Fire Information for Resource Management System database, where the system developed extracts and alerts occurring in forests.

United Nations support in protected areas included enhancements in management capacity in five protected areas – over 16,000 hectares of land were strengthened through the development of a general management plan; building of staff technical skills about the use of technologies such as drone, GIS and remote sensing in wildlife protection; training of rangers on investigation techniques, intelligence gathering and arrests of criminals and establishing national and regional task forces on combating illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. The livelihoods of 1,450 households (53 percent women-headed) have been improved as a result of five value chain/market linkages created on agrobiodiversity products. These households are organized into cooperatives that have increased the income they earn from the agrobusiness by about 37 percent.

Environmental and social safeguards strengthened through the integration of safeguard principles into all programmes and projects. This was achieved through training provided on social and environmental safeguards for 15 implementing partners, benefiting 35 (5 women and 30 men) personnel.

United Nations working together better: **Coherence, effectiveness and efficiency**

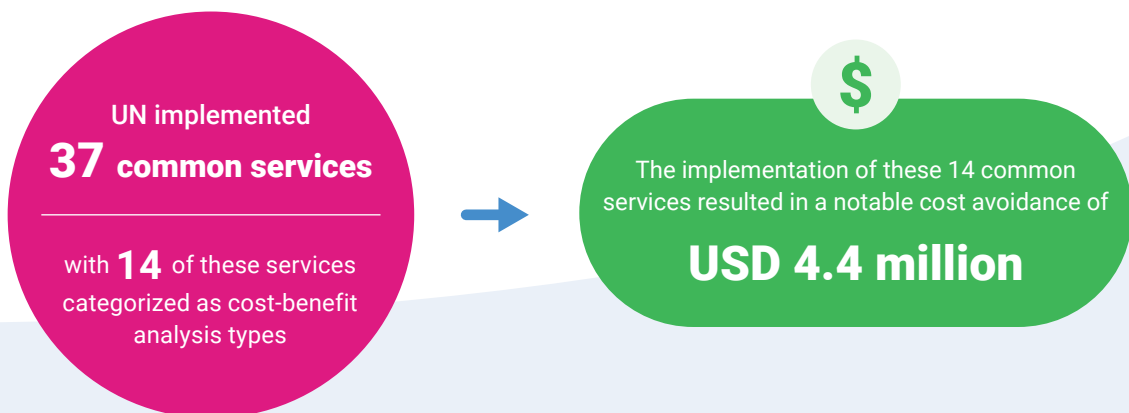
The United Nations in Ethiopia has remained committed to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency by fostering joint initiatives, coordinated support to the GoE, and integrated approaches to address cross-cutting issues. Notably, joint efforts were undertaken to prepare for significant events such as the High-Level Political Forum 2022, Food System Summit, COP 27, and the SDG Summit in September 2023.

Operating as one

The Operation Management Team (OMT) has taken proactive steps to revitalize the OMT Working Groups and advance the implementation of the Business Operation Strategy (BOS), aligning with the efficiency targets outlined in the BOS 2020–2025 framework. During the first quarter of 2023, the OMT conducted the second annual review of BOS 2.0, with a primary focus on assessing the realized efficiencies in 2022, refining future projections as necessary, and updating the activities within the planning framework. Additionally, the OMT introduced new supplemental guidance for the annual review of BOS in 2024 and the reporting of

These collaborative endeavours have yielded positive outcomes, enabling the United Nations to streamline its operations, enhance system-wide coherence, and reduce transaction costs. Through these concerted efforts, the United Nations has demonstrated its commitment to delivering impactful support and maximizing its effectiveness in Ethiopia.

BOS efficiencies during service implementation. This guidance serves as a valuable tool for enhancing the monitoring and reporting processes associated with BOS initiatives. In 2022, the United Nations successfully implemented a total of 37 common services, with 14 of these services categorized as cost-benefit analysis types, delivering both quality enhancements and cost avoidance benefits. The implementation of these 14 common services resulted in a notable cost avoidance of USD 4.4 million, underscoring the effectiveness of strategic efficiency measures within the organization.





Women converse and take refuge under a tree at the Gelabo IDP site in Konso zone.
Source: IOM

Communicating as one

Building upon its partnership with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, the United Nations in Ethiopia launched the United Nations Ethiopia Media Compact. This collaborative platform aims to unite the United Nations, media organizations, and development partners to enhance the capacity of all media actors in the country. Two consultations were held to shape the structure and objectives of the compact, providing media partners with an opportunity to express their support needs and suggest areas for collaboration. The insights gained from these consultations were instrumental in understanding how the United Nations and its partners could better support the development of robust media institutions in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, the United Nations Communication Group finalized the development of a comprehensive long-term communication strategy for the remainder of the UNSDCF implementation. This strategy seeks to manage and enhance the reputation and perception of the United Nations in Ethiopia through perception surveys and other feedback mechanisms. It aims to effectively communicate the collective results and impact of the United Nations Country Team's work towards achieving the UNSDCF and the SDGs to key stakeholders at the local, regional, and global levels. Additionally, the strategy includes a crisis communication section outlining country-specific guidance endorsed by the United Nations Country Team to mitigate reputation risks and ensure a coordinated response to crises in line with relevant United Nations guidelines.

Recognizing the imperative to combat hate speech and disinformation, the United Nations in Ethiopia developed a joint United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. This strategy is currently under revision by the United Nations Task Force on Hate Speech, established to coordinate efforts across various United Nations entities in the country addressing hate speech. To raise awareness and advocate for action against hate speech and disinformation, the United Nations in Ethiopia organized an online event in conjunction with the International Day for Countering Hate Speech. The event brought together stakeholders from diverse sectors, including government, private sector, media, academia, youth, and civil society, to address the issue collectively. The event aimed to enhance understanding of the conceptual framework surrounding freedom of expression, information pollution, and hate speech, while fostering multi-stakeholder engagement to prevent, mitigate, and respond to disinformation and hate speech in the Ethiopian context.

Moreover, the United Nations in Ethiopia expanded its presence on social media platforms, disseminating key messages on a variety of issues related to the United Nations Country Team's priorities. The United Nations Ethiopia's Twitter and Facebook accounts saw an increase in followers, and messages from the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Secretary-General were amplified to counter disinformation campaigns. Additionally, messages related to international observance days and major United Nations events were shared on social media platforms to raise awareness and engage audiences both locally and globally.

Integrating cross-cutting issues

Humanitarian, development and peace collaboration

The overlapping shocks and crises Ethiopia has faced over the past few years has made the integration of humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) activities a key priority for the United Nations. With the objective of creating a concrete linkage across the humanitarian and development systems, a series of dialogues were held between the Humanitarian Country Team and the Development Partners Group. These dialogues have led to the prioritization of the HDP collaboration, an area focusing on the restructuring of the Development Partners Group, which took place during the reporting period. The HDP collaboration has been mainstreamed across key sector working groups of the Development Partners Group including water, education, governance, food and agriculture; and an HDP Task Force involving humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors has been established.

The United Nations has also continued its support to the Ethiopia Multi-Stakeholder Peacebuilding Network, which brings together local civil society organizations, NGOs, United Nations partners and development partners. The network, with membership of more than 40 organizations and 85 individuals, helps actors working on peacebuilding issues to discuss national and subnational contexts and share their experiences to build capacities on key peacebuilding issues and promote greater collaboration.

The prioritization of the HDP collaboration by humanitarian actors also led to the inclusion of a dedicated HDP collaboration section in the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for the first time. The coordination among humanitarian and development actors will strengthen the focus on laying the foundation for resilience and recovery efforts in the medium- and long-term beyond early contributions and interventions to respond to emergencies.

An important element in the internal reorientation of United Nations focus towards the HDP collaboration was the organization of a joint United Nations Scenario Building and Risk Analysis exercise in July 2022. The in-depth analysis and reflection explored trends in conflict, economic and environmental risks and their intersections. This exercise was followed by the institutionalization by the United Nations of quarterly United Nations Risk Horizon Scans, bringing

together United Nations economists, conflict/political analysts and climate/environment experts to act as a mechanism to enable United Nations entities to jointly analyse the evolution of the context in real time and to support ongoing joint United Nations strategic and programmatic adaptation to emerging risks and opportunities.

The United Nations also supported the development of a multi-year resilience plan for the Somali Region to be implemented in partnership with nine United Nations agencies¹⁸ and the Somali regional government. The government-owned and -led programme aims to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and year-to-year humanitarian needs as a result of shocks and crises such as droughts, flood and conflicts. In addition, the United Nations has continued contributing to the advancement of durable solution efforts in Ethiopia. During the reporting period, the United Nations supported the Somali Regional State to develop a durable solution strategy. The experience in the Somali Region will serve as a mode to expand multi-stakeholder coordination on HDP and resilience building in other parts of the country.

Leaving No One Behind Working Group

Aligned with its commitment outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to uphold the principle of leaving no one behind, the United Nations in Ethiopia has been steadfastly dedicated to ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups in its programs and interventions. In 2023, recognizing the imperative of this commitment, the United Nations established a dedicated Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Working Group. This group has been tasked with spearheading inter-agency and intersectoral coordination to implement the LNOB approach in a structured and cohesive manner.

Comprising distinct workstreams focused on gender, youth, disability, and HIV/AIDS, the LNOB Working Group orchestrates efforts tailored to each thematic area. A primary objective for this group is the execution of an LNOB analysis, poised to provide a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing country context and identified vulnerabilities. This analysis will serve as the foundation for adopting an inclusion approach informed by thorough assessment and analysis.

¹⁸ Led by UNDP and UNOCHA; FAO, UNICEF, WFP, UN Women, IOM, UNOPS and UNFPA are the contributing agencies.

Data and Statistics Working Group

During the reporting period, the United Nations took a significant step towards enhancing national statistical capacities and streamlining United Nations support for data improvement initiatives by establishing the Data and Statistics Working Group (DSWG). Comprised of data experts from various United Nations agencies, the DSWG has been actively engaged in providing support to the GoE on various data-related initiatives.

One of the key initiatives led by the DSWG includes mapping United Nations projects related to data, aimed at fostering collaboration among different United Nations agencies. Building upon this mapping exercise, the DSWG has formulated an action plan for 2023, outlining strategic objectives and priority areas for intervention.

Furthermore, the DSWG is currently providing crucial support to the GoE in conducting the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey, underscoring its commitment to strengthening data collection processes and ensuring the availability of accurate and timely information for evidence-based decision-making.

Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

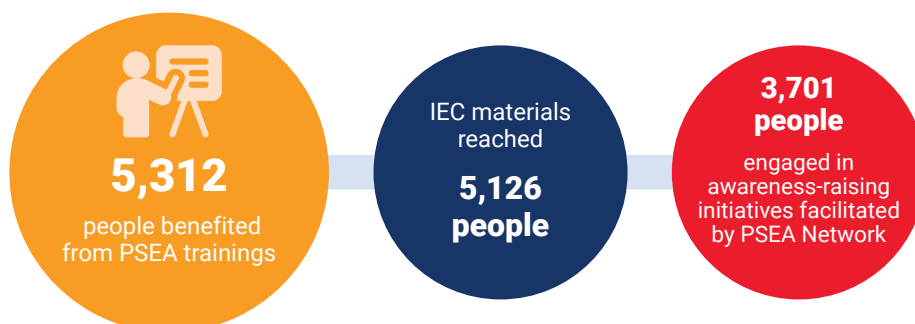
The United Nations plays a pivotal role in coordinating the Ethiopia Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, which provides oversight and guidance to eight regional networks across the country, including the Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Benishangul/Gumuz, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions. Aligned with the established PSEA Network Strategy, the network

focuses on four strategic priority areas: coordination and leadership, capacity-building, awareness-raising, and survivor support.

In efforts to strengthen capacities and awareness, a ToT program was conducted for 84 focal points at both national and subnational levels, with a gender-sensitive approach. Subsequently, PSEA trainings were cascaded to various regions, benefitting 5,312 individuals, including United Nations personnel, community members, and stakeholders. To enhance community awareness, contextualized Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were developed and distributed, reaching 5,126 individuals across different regions.

Furthermore, the PSEA Network facilitated various awareness-raising initiatives engaging 3,701 individuals, fostering community consultation and the establishment of Community-based Complaint Mechanisms. Collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has ensured the integration of PSEA information into regular security briefings for new United Nations staff, enhancing overall awareness and prevention efforts.

Moreover, the PSEA Network collaborates with sector-specific clusters through designated focal points, facilitating information sharing and promoting linkages for sector-specific risk mitigation. These concerted efforts underscore the commitment of the United Nations to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, ensuring the protection and well-being of all individuals within the community.



Support to partnerships and financing the **2030 Agenda**

Enhancing partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional stakeholders, along with supporting innovative and catalytic financing mechanisms, are crucial for advancing core United Nations objectives. This entails moving towards more strategic joint planning, improving inter-agency coordination, and enhancing agility and responsiveness to both long-term development goals and immediate humanitarian needs.

Recognizing the importance of tailoring partnership approaches to the diverse interests and contributions of different stakeholders, the United Nations has developed various engagement platforms and strategies tailored for specific groups, such as the media and the private sector. Efforts have been made to strengthen engagement with traditional partners through platforms like the Development Partners Group, which serves as a vital channel for engaging with key donors and international financial institutions. Additionally, new platforms like the United Nations Ethiopia Media Compact have been established to engage with non-traditional partners, fostering collaboration and leveraging resources towards common goals.

Moreover, initiatives like the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, launched in Ethiopia with an initial allocation of USD 500,000, aim to support civil society organizations working on women, peace, and security issues in conflict-affected areas. Expanded with an additional USD 2 million, the fund is managed by the United Nations in collaboration with partners such as the European Union, Canada, and local women's associations. Through this fund, over USD 2 million has been disbursed to 10 local women-led civil society organizations, providing support for initiatives addressing gender-based violence and social protections for women.

In alignment with Ethiopia's Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy, United Nations agencies are joining forces to address digital economy inequalities and ensure inclusivity in the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution.' A key initiative in this endeavor is the African Girls Can Code Initiative, a partnership between the United Nations, UNECA, and the African Union. This initiative focuses on empowering young girls with coding skills and personal development through coding camps, while also advocating for gender mainstreaming in national curricula. Moreover, it complements the joint United Nations program aimed at enhancing youth employment opportunities and digital skills in Ethiopia's burgeoning digital economy.

In November 2022, the United Nations collaborated with the MInT to establish the National Digital Capacity Coalition in Ethiopia. This multi-stakeholder platform brings together partners to enhance digital capacity development in the country. Alongside the United Nations and MInT, the coalition includes key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, African Union, UNECA, and Ethiopia's telecommunications operators, Ethio Telecom and Safaricom.

Furthermore, the United Nations is expanding its joint support for Ethiopia's industrialization goals by engaging new partners in the country's IAIP. Partnerships with entities like Germany's GIZ, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the International Finance Corporation, and the National Bank of Ethiopia are pivotal in ensuring access to finance and decent work within the industrial parks. Additionally, collaborations with organizations like the Tony Blair Institute, Ethiopian Management Institute, and Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority aim to bolster capacity in management, traceability, and assessment, further contributing to Ethiopia's industrial growth.

Financial overview and resource mobilization

To support the UNSDCF and national development priorities, the UNCT in Ethiopia continues to mobilize resources through donors and, increasingly, through multipartner trust funds, which serve as important vehicles to facilitate inter-agency coordination and joint programming. It is the most effective platform for engaging with all key donors and international financial institutions. To strengthen the United Nations' relationship with the private sector, an inter-agency private sector engagement group was established. The group is an inter-agency platform for United Nations entities to coordinate and identify opportunities for joint partnership approaches with the private sector in a coordinated manner.

In 2023, the United Nations successfully mobilized USD 1.5 million through the Migration Multipartner Trust Fund for a programme that will support the GoE, the Addis Ababa City Administration, and local

organizations to give returning migrants access to essential services including health, housing, skills development, social protection, labour-market reintegration and employment promotion. The project seeks to reduce migrant vulnerability to remigration, trafficking and smuggling, especially for women. The project will also partner with MoLS, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa Labour and Skills Bureau, Addis Ababa Plan and Development Bureau, Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Addis Ababa Education Bureau, Addis Ababa University Department of Psychiatry, Organization for Women in Self Employment and LIVE ADDIS. Going forward, UNCT aims to increase joint resource mobilization efforts leading with joint inter-agency programme plans such as the Peace Support in Northern Ethiopia and the Somali Region Multi-year Resilience Investment Plan, among others.

Table 1 2022 funding overview per outcome area¹⁹

Outcome	Total required resource	Available budget	Funding gap
People	\$1,270,701,072.24	\$1,215,681,185.17	\$55,019,887.07
Democracy, Justice and Peace	\$201,678,286.68	\$196,670,076.97	\$5,008,209.71
Prosperity	\$123,532,327.53	\$122,982,990.10	\$549,337.43
Environmental Protection and Climate Change	\$154,728,559.58	\$143,985,072.85	\$10,743,486.73
Total	\$1,750,640,246.03	\$1,679,319,325.09	\$71,320,920.94

¹⁹ Source: <https://uninfo.org/location/170/funding> (as of June 2023).

Challenges and lessons learned

The security situation in the country remains volatile and the Amhara Region is increasingly unstable. Conflict and insecurity continue to be the major challenge in programme implementation; limited or no access to programme sites create delays. The recurrent and climatic shocks such as floods and droughts, coupled with the conflict, made prioritizing interventions in some areas challenging where the focus was to provide humanitarian assistance. In addition, global macroeconomic challenges and the War in Ukraine are carrying both immediate and long-term impacts on development spending. The impact is even greater in a large and complex development space like Ethiopia, which remains one of the largest recipients of official development assistance. At the same time, humanitarian spending as a proportion of donor funding increased dramatically in 2022, reflecting the scale of emergency needs in the country caused by conflict and drought. The conflict in Sudan also added another complexity to the existing context resulting in increased displacement.

While these interconnected challenges continued to impact United Nations programming in the country, the reporting period also saw the end of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia with the signing of COHA and the beginning of reform agendas on accountability and transitional justice that could serve as a springboard for the United Nations to meaningfully support the GoE in bringing the rule of law and democratization in the country. However, given the sensitivity of such issues, their success depends on the timely and actual implementation of commitments. This requires closely monitoring the situation and capitalizing on the opportunity to support the restoration of lasting peace and inclusive prosperity.

A key lesson learned in such regard has been the need for the United Nations to come together to bridge the silos between humanitarian and development activities to help the country move from addressing immediate needs and reacting to recurrent crises towards making substantial progress in reducing humanitarian needs overtime. While the United Nations has begun institutionalizing the humanitarian, development and peace collaboration, a continued focus on strengthening the knowledge and capacities of the United Nations development and humanitarian systems and working with partners to promote joint programming is critical.

Partnerships across the United Nations in Ethiopia remain heavily focused on transactional collaboration with donors or collaborative support through the government. Where NGOs or civil society organizations are engaged, they are often larger international organizations or government-affiliated organizations, leaving a gap of national/local NGOs that are underserved and under-resourced, especially in critical areas. Thus, the United Nations will need to put in place a strategic plan to address some of the underlying barriers/impediments for greater United Nations partnership and engagement with local NGOs. This is particularly important for women rights issues, which emanate from deep-rooted societal perceptions as well as other vulnerable groups at the risk of being left behind, including youth, displaced persons and persons with disabilities. The United Nations should focus on building on previous engagements and results through innovative approaches in order to leapfrog the conventional methods for better, more resilient and demonstrable evidence-based positive impacts.

UNCT key priorities 2023–2024

In 2024 the United Nations in Ethiopia will start designing the next phase of the UNSDCF, which will enable the United Nations to renew its commitment to support the GoE in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Ten-Year Development Plan with greater alignment, improved inter-agency coordination and taking into considerations the lessons learned in the implementation of the current UNSDCF. The designing of the new UNSDCF will allow the United Nations to adjust to the changing context in Ethiopia amid the unprecedented humanitarian crises and shocks the country continues to experience. The framework development will be informed by an end evaluation of the current UNSDCF and a comprehensive common country analysis to identify key lessons and challenges and define drivers of change and priorities for the framework.

In February 2023, the UNCT held its annual retreat with the aim of repositioning the United Nations development response in crisis. The UNCT analysed regional and national developments and their impact on the SDGs. It also reviewed the progress towards the implementation of the UNSDCF through a thorough analysis of the UNSDCF Results Framework indicators. The UNCT conducted a repositioning and reprioritization exercise to identify key priorities for the United Nations in the coming years. The UNCT emphasized the need for strengthened collaboration, agility and adaptability in its programming to support the GoE. The UNCT also prioritized the following thematic areas: support to northern Ethiopia, food systems, building resilience to drought and durable solutions. The UNCT identified LNOB and filling existing data gaps as cross-cutting priority issues. Improved partnership and financing and strengthened coordination among United Nations agencies remain critical.

2023–2024 key priorities per outcome area

People



Key priorities

- Strengthening the capacity of government and community structures in human rights-based and equity-driven approaches
- Sustaining evidence-based programming, policy advocacy, normative guidance development to reducing inequalities
- Engaging meaningfully in emergency preparedness and response to serving the vulnerable and marginalized population

Democracy, Justice and Peace



Key priorities

- Supporting the development and implementation of the Transitional Justice Policy
- Strengthening United Nations support to rule of law and access to justice including strengthening multisector coordination
- Electoral support to NEBE and other electoral stakeholders such as civil society organizations and EHRC
- Strengthening gender-responsive governance structures and democratic institutions
- Continuing support to the national dialogue process

Prosperity



Key priorities

- Supporting sector coordination and capacity building for MSMEs, sustainability and IAIP operationalization
- Augmenting the humanitarian cash transfer programme and strengthening linkage between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection
- Providing normative and other support to improve the social protection sector including increasing the coverage
- Increasing the focus on digital infrastructure investment that is inclusive

Environmental Protection and Climate Change



Key priorities

- Supporting the launch of EW4All initiative in the Africa Action Plan and its implementation
- Improving self-reliance and climate resilience through sustainable adaptation solutions while increasing the engagement of local civil society organizations in climate change and adaptation and implementing Ethiopia's nationally determined partnership plan to deliver the climate mitigation and adaptation targets
- Providing clean energy access to more than 467,000 refugees and host communities while mainstreaming migration in key environmental and climate impact policies and plans
- Supporting the establishment of Mojo Leather City with reduced pollution and common effluent treatment plant

Acronyms and abbreviations

3RF	Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction Framework
AU	African Union
BOS	Business Operation Strategy
COHA	Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSO	Civil society organization
CRGF	Credit Risk Guarantee Fund
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DSS	Department for Safety and Security
DSWG	Data and Statistics Working Group
EC	Ethiopian calendar
Eco-DRR	Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
EDI	Ethiopian Entrepreneurship Development Institute
EDRMC	Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ENDC	Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission
EPA	Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority
ETB	Ethiopian birr
EU	European Union
EW4ALL	Early Warnings for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
HDP	Humanitarian-development-peace
HGSF	Home-Grown School Feeding Programme
IAIP	Integrated agro-industrial park
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDP	Internally displaced person
IEC	Information, education and communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFL	Innovative Finance Lab
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre

ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LNOB	Leave no one behind
MinT	Ministry of Innovation and Technology
MoLS	Ministry of Labour and Skills
MSME	Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises
NEBE	National Election Board of Ethiopia
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RTC	Rural Transformation Center
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SIA	Supplementary immunization activity
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region
ToT	Training of trainers
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSW	Water-spreading weir



UNITED NATIONS
ETHIOPIA

