

UN Ethiopia

NEWSLETTER

August 2024

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

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



Pathways to accompany Ethiopia's strive towards sustainable development



Peace and governance



Economy, food systems and energy



Social development



Climate, resilience and preparedness



Gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people

UN Ethiopia presented its proposed five pathways and enablers for the UN collective response to help Ethiopia address its national priorities.

challenges. "The instability disrupts education and employment opportunities and can lead to displacement and insecurity."

"Due to the lack of opportunities and political instability, many young Ethiopians seek better opportunities abroad, often risking their lives in dangerous migration routes."

Yet, Likke hopes that it is possible to address these challenges with the right investment, focus and commitment of multiple actors, including the UN that need to put youth at the heart of their priorities and collective efforts.

[Full story](#)

For Likke Serawitu, 24, a member of Ethiopian Youth Council, Ethiopia is grappling with a host of development and humanitarian challenges, including conflicts, unemployment, migration, poor infrastructures and gender inequalities that need collective response from different actors to address them.

"Despite economic growth, job creation has not kept pace with the growing number of young people entering the labor market," he says while expressing his concern over the high rate of unemployment.

Likke also feels that the youth have been disproportionately affected by increased instability and conflicts that cause multiple and intertwined



Rekindling efforts in the fight against child marriage and FGM in Afar Region



Halima Deresa

Fifteen-year-old Halima Deresa is a facilitator of the unmarried girls' club at the Abala High School where she is going in the 11th grade. She says they discuss in the club on issues related to child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence. The discussions resumed recently after being stalled for long due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2 years plus conflict that ravaged northern Ethiopia.

Halima reminisces how difficult and unbearable those times were subjecting young girls like her to quite a lot of suffering. The incidences of child marriage and FGM rose considerably during that time. Many girls also succumbed to gender-based violence. Halima was not spared the ordeal. Since the time of the COVID pandemic her parents were putting

pressure on her to get married.

Her brother was even physically assaulting her when she refused to oblige. "I was very much aware of the harms of child marriage and was fighting with my parents not to marry me off before I finish school. I have also heard stories of my school mates who got married at a young age during that time and had a difficult childbirth experience," she says.

This year her parents were making earnest preparations to throw a wedding to marry her off to an older person. When Halima learned about this she ran away from home and stayed with her uncle for two months. She brought her case to the attention of the Abala District Women and Youth Affairs Office saying that she had no intention

to marry and that she wants to continue her education. The District Women and Youth Affairs Office intervened. "We convinced her parents to take her back home and not to push her to get married without her consent explaining the consequences on her health and future prospects," states Hasna Inahaba, Head of the Abala District Women and Youth Affairs Office.

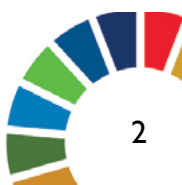
Supporting community mobilization The Afar Region Women and Youth Affairs Bureau, represented by its subsidiary in the Abala District, the Women and Youth Affairs Office, is overseeing the implementation of the Integrated Project on Prevention of Child Marriage and FGM. UNFPA is supporting the project with funding from the UN Association in Sweden.

The project was piloted in the Afambo District in 2012 and was later scaled-up to the Abala District in the region. The project has registered quite remarkable results where all the localities in the pilot district publicly declared abandonment of both harmful practices. Promising strides were being made in the 13 localities of the Abala District in the abandonment of both harmful practices until they were jeopardized by the humanitarian crisis triggered by COVID-19 and the northern Ethiopia conflict.

Several girls who were Halima's school mates were not so lucky as they got married at a young age and dropped out of school. As many communities were displaced due to the conflict, the efforts that were being made in preventing child marriage and FGM through the strong mobilization of communities were derailed to the detriment of the young girls.

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[Full story](#)



ILO trains social health protection actors in Ethiopia



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The ILO PROSPECTS Programme in collaboration with Ethiopian Health Insurance Services (EHIS) and UNHCR Ethiopia delivered a four-day training (09-12 July) on Social Health Protection for policymakers and administrators overseeing Ethiopia's social health protection programs.

The training equipped participants with the knowledge and experience to strengthen health financing and social health protection systems. Some 40 participants (including 7 women) from EHIS, workers and employers' organizations, UNHCR Ethiopia, Refugee and Returnees Service (RRS), Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and regional health bureaus attended and benefited from the training.

The training leveraged ILO's expertise in social health protection, customized for Ethiopia's specific needs identified during joint

engagement with EHIS and UNHCR. Participants at the training explored best practices from around the world and potential partnerships with social protection actors in order to learn from best practices.

ILO instruments, on the Equality of Treatment of Nationals and Non-Nationals in Social Security Convention, 1962 (No. 118) and on the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205), recognize the importance for displaced persons and refugees to be covered by social protection mechanisms. In addition, the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) reaffirms that social protection is a human right and an economic and social necessity for development and progress.

Speaking on behalf of the Director ILO CO Addis Ababa, Mr. Stephen Opio, Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO emphasized that "The

training wasn't just about knowledge transfer. It also focused on nurturing leadership qualities required to inspire collective action and drive necessary reforms in Social Health Protection for all, in Ethiopia."

He highlighted the ILO's commitment to universal social protection coverage including extension of coverage to forcibly displaced person and their host communities, encompassing policies that ensure income security and support, particularly for vulnerable populations like refugees and their host communities, especially considering Ethiopia is host to over 1.1 million Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

Tesfaye Worku, Director General of Ethiopian Health Insurance Services (EHIS), acknowledged the Ethiopian government's ongoing efforts towards universal health coverage. Mr. Tesfaye highlighted health insurance as a key reform program providing financial protection for rural and urban informal sector citizens when accessing healthcare.

[Full story](#)

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New UN Country Team Members



Mr. Khumbula Ndaba

Director of the ILO Country Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the AU and the UNECA



Mr. Zlata Milišić

WFP Representative and Country Director



Mr. Francis Yaw Asamoah Okai (Nana)

UNDSS, Chief Security Advisor a.i. for Ethiopia and Djibouti

Enhancing youth skills for improving the leather sector, creating more jobs



Shirtawi Tura

Ethiopia is known in its large livestock base, as the first in Africa and the tenth in the world. This clearly shows the significant potential for the leather sector to contribute to the national economy if it is harnessed well.

The value chain of the leather sector, which includes raw hide and skin processing, leather processing and manufacturing of footwear and leather goods, is also labour intensive with huge potential for creating jobs for the youth.

Nevertheless, the leather sector faces a number of challenges that stifle its growth. One of the challenges along the leather value chain is poor quality of raw hide and skin from the market

players including abattoirs and traders. The poor quality is mainly attributed to slaughterhouse practices which damage hide and skin during slaughtering and flaying as well as storage and preservation.

In order to address these challenges, UNIDO is implementing the Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC) project that aims to improve the leather value chain and create employment opportunities for the youth and women.

With funding from the European Union, UNIDO implements the LISEC project in partnership with Modjo City Administration, Oromia Region), Ministry of Industry and Ministry of

Agriculture.

The leather value chain embraces a continuum from processing raw hide and skin to finished leather and leather products.

The Lisec project supports Ethiopia's leather sector at three levels along the value chain: quality of raw hide and skin, quality finished leather, and investment on leather products manufacturing.

One of the interventions of the six-year project is improving the quality of hide and skin, which is the foundation for ensuring the quality of leather and leather products, through technology transfer, skill training, and awareness raising among abattoirs and raw hide and skin traders.

The project is mainly implemented in Modjo City, a small town in Oromia region, and its surroundings. Modjo is a hub for the leather industry, hosting about 80 % of tanneries in Ethiopia, with over 75 % represents direct foreign investment that offers opportunities for technology and skills transfer.

[Full story](#)

UN Women supports introduction of Gender Audit Manual

Pilot audit findings delivered to parliament



Mr. Tesfaye Alemu

The first-ever Gender Audit manual developed with the support of UN Women to the Office of the Federal Auditor General (OFAG) aims to enable an effective performance audit of gender equality at ministries and other government agencies.

Through the support of UN Women in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government has taken various steps to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as part of its commitments to realize its gender focused targets aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and its Ten-Year Perspective Plan (2021-2030).

The first-ever Gender Audit manual developed with the support of UN Women and its implementation by the Office of the Federal Auditor General (OFAG) is among the tangible results. The gender manual, targeting audit experts at the Office of the Federal Auditor General, aims to enable an effective performance audit of gender equality at ministries and other government agencies.

Through the support of UN Women, the audit experts at the institution were also capacitated through various trainings on gender equality auditing

including on proper application of the manual.

On the improvement of the institutions' performance after the manual got introduced, Mr. Tesfaye Alemu, the Performance Audit Manager at OFAG explained, "Before we started using the manual, there were a few general criteria that we used to apply for gender audit. It wasn't as detailed as the one in the new gender audit manual to the extent that the findings were not even visible. When we used the manual, which is comprehensive, critical findings were identified."

Mr. Tesfaye also cited the findings from a pilot performance audit at the Ministry of Health, which looked into selected hospitals. "We found the cost of gender gaps in the health sector, including unsafe child delivery, improper family planning, and lack of focus on specific diseases that women are exposed to. These issues resulted



Ms. Tsige Tilahun

because of lack of gender awareness, negligence, and weak or absence of policies for accountability. Based on our recommendations channeled through the parliament, the Ministry has prepared an action plan to accordingly address these issues," said Tesfaye.

Ms. Tsige Tilahun, Women, Youth and Children Directorate Directress at OFAG, described the manual as a groundbreaking one not just for OFAG but also for the country. "Application of the audit manual is part of our annual strategic plan. Each department at OFAG implements and periodically reports with recommendations on the findings. It is assisting us to advance gender equality. Now, we realize more than ever that without proper gender audit, auditing is not complete in our institution."

[Full story](#)

UN, business community in Ethiopia hold discussion on enhancing collaboration for efficient procurement, leveraging Africa continental trade



The UN in Ethiopia has organized a business seminar that brought together more than 150 business entities in Ethiopia

The UN in Ethiopia has organized a business seminar that brought together more than 150 business entities with a view to familiarizing local vendors in Ethiopia with the procurement procedures of the UN system and facilitating efficient delivery of goods, work, and services.

[Full story](#)

Holistic Support to Communities in Tigray to Improve Their Livelihoods



Abreha Gebreyohannes

Tigray Region has been affected by significant challenges due to conflict which has impacted its communities and infrastructure. Despite the challenging environment, the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project Phase II (DRDIP II) has actively been working to support the region's adaptation and resilience.

The project has helped to improve accessibility of essential social and economic services, expanded livelihood opportunities, and a strengthened focus on environmental management. This concerted effort has not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered long-term sustainability for both host communities and refugees in the targeted areas.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, UNOPS managed and

implemented a 1.2 million USD World Bank financed DRDIP-II project in Tigray Region. UNOPS together with the regional government achieved the intended objectives and contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals.

A total of 6,540 community members were engaged in the restoration of degraded watershed activities, of which 43% were women.

The restoration management activities were done on 299 ha of land, including construction of different soil and water management practices, and protecting the intervention area from human and livestock interference.

Accordingly, community members were paid for their involvement in the soil and water conservation works. Half of the labor involved in

A total of 6,540 community members were engaged in the restoration of degraded watershed activities, of which 43% were women.

the physical works were youth, which significantly contributed to their income generation and stronger involvement in the community. The youths were also engaged in different common interest groups so that they would benefit from the rehabilitated lands.

“UNOPS started implementation of the project, while the people were in a difficult situation due to the conflict. Implementation of the project by UNOPS helps the community to recover from the trauma and think about development. Within the DRDIP, UNOPS constructed the physical soil and water conservation structures and handed over to the regular regional DRDIP to run the activities afterwards. Therefore, in the future we will strengthen the already constructed soil and water conservation structure with biological plantation and benefit the communities by engaging them in woodlot plantation, apiculture or other community livelihoods.

Landless youths will benefit from this activity and lift the community out of poverty. We hope this is one of the mechanisms to solve poverty,” the Regional DRDIP Natural Resource Management Expert Abreha Gebreyohannes said.

[Full story](#)



Abreha Gebreyohannes

Summit of the Future



Summit of the Future is a high-level event, bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future.

In September, world leaders will convene at the United Nations to adopt the Pact for the Future, which will include a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations as annexes.

The aim of the Summit is twofold: accelerate efforts to meet our existing international commitments, and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

This will be achieved through an action-oriented outcome document called the Pact for the Future.

The Pact will be negotiated, and endorsed by countries in the lead-

up to and during the Summit in September 2024.

The result will be a world – and an international system – that is better prepared to manage the challenges we face now and in the future, for the sake of all humanity and for future generations.

[More on the Summit](#)

PEACE

UN Women, Partners, deliver training on Gender-Responsive Reintegration Service to Migrant Women Returnees



In response to the challenges faced by migrant women returnees in Ethiopia, UN Women has been diligently providing support to safe and dignified reintegration services. UN Women Ethiopia in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs organized a capacity-building training from 29 to 31 May 2024 in Bishoftu Town, Oromia Region.

The training aimed to enhance the capacity of service providers and government stakeholders in gender-responsive reintegration assistance and services for migrant women returnees. The training brought together policymakers, government stakeholders, civil society organizations, members of the Victims Protection and Reintegration Working Group, and the media.

Mr. Tilahun Kassahun, Senior Expert in Monitoring and Support of Returning Citizens at the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, highlighted the increasing challenges of migration in Ethiopia. A significant portion of migration is irregular, leaving many migrants vulnerable to various forms of violence.

"Inclusive and sustainable reintegration services must be prioritized to better support migrant women."

"It is very notable that migrants lack awareness about the migration process and its challenges, which compounds the issue. Additionally, there is a big gap during mass deportations regarding how to process the cases of each returnee, as they often carry trauma from their migration experiences, making reintegration even more challenging."

[Full story](#)

PEOPLE



Making the investment case for clean air

Air pollution: An economic, health and social burden on Ethiopia

Living with Air Pollution in Ethiopia: Their Experience

Jodahi Bezabih is a vibrant climate influencer who has been part of the environmental movement in Ethiopia since a young age. Jodahi is the Deputy Director of the Influencer Network Community, which seeks to create awareness and provide a platform for various perspectives on environmental protection.

As a passionate advocate for climate action, he is deeply concerned about air pollution. He believes this critical global issue has not had the level of attention and emphasis it requires considering its significant impact on people's lives.

"As a young person living in an urban area, I have become accustomed to one of the silent killers of our time: Air Pollution." said Jodahi, explaining, "I have seen an increased risk of asthma and respiratory problems among my peers, friends, and family members, and I speculate that air pollution is the culprit. That's why I'm always excited to travel outside the city to breathe fresh air."

Shockingly, this issue is not being discussed on the main stages as much as it should be."



Jodahi Bezabih

With rapid urbanization and industrialization, the air pollution problem is expected to worsen in Ethiopia.

Milha Desta is a cyclist and a cofounder of Anbessa Bike Ride, and she shares Jodahi's concern. "It has been ten years since I started cycling. I am usually exposed to outdoor air pollution as I cycle daily to the office, and I can feel the difference in the air quality when it is a good or a bad day. Cycling early in the morning, or on Sunday, when there is less traffic, is much easier and enjoyable." Reflecting on how environmental

changes pose a health threat, Milha sadly notes, "I have noticed the changes in the environment over time. Some years back, I did not need to wear a mask but now I must, especially when I cycle during peak hours or after 5 pm. I usually cough when I get home or to the office on the days, I don't wear a mask, and this is an alarming health risk for me and those who are cycling".

[Full story](#)



Milha Desta

UN Ethiopia

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Email: uncommunications@un.org



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