

UN Ethiopia

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

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

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



UN DAY COMMEMORATED



The United Nations Day, which marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter, was commemorated on 24 October 2024.

At the event held in the UN

Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Assistant Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, delivered the message of the UN Secretary-General.

"In today's troubled world, hope is not enough.

Hope requires determined action and multilateral solutions for peace, shared prosperity and a thriving planet.

Hope requires all countries working as one.

[Full story](#)



The First African Urban Forum: A Milestone for Sustainable Urbanization in Africa



The forum focused on building a united, prosperous and peaceful Africa through sustainable cities.

to reach 1.2 billion by 2050. She also stressed the importance of strategic planning and partnerships to tackle pressing issues like infrastructure deficits, urban sprawl and slum development, while also promoting environmental sustainability and social cohesion.

Ethiopia hosted the first African Urban Forum from 4-6 September 2024.

The forum held at the Adwa Museum, Addis Ababa, signaled a significant advancement in Africa's journey towards sustainable urbanization. It also underlined urbanization as an imperative for sustainable and resilient development in Africa.

Organized by the African Union, the Government of Ethiopia, UN-Habitat, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and partners, the forum focused on building a united, prosperous and peaceful Africa through sustainable cities.

UN-Habitat played a vital role towards the success of the forum, contributing to the development of the Harmonized Regional Framework for Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Africa. The framework helped align the forum's discussions with global urban development goals, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing Africa's urban challenges.

Speaking at the forum, Anacláudia Roszbach, UN-Habitat's new Executive Director, emphasized the need to put people at the center of urban policies while addressing the looming population surge, with Africa's urban population expected

Key outcomes of the forum included the launch of the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP), which focuses on building climate-resilient cities, and the adoption of an African Union Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization, laying the foundation for future urban policies. The forum also provided a space for in-depth discussions on financing mechanisms, inclusive urban policies, and capacity-building for local governments and urban planners.

Networking sessions resulted in new partnerships and investments, enhancing African cities' capacity to implement sustainable urban solutions.

[Full Story](#)

World Cleanup Day celebrated!

UN Habitat and partners jointly organized a one-day city wide clean-up campaign in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga cities as part of the World Cleanup Day (WCD) 2024 activities, bringing together a range of stakeholders for one positive cause – a clean city!

The events held on 20 and 21 September in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga cities brought together officials, volunteers, members of the

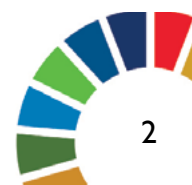
community and other stakeholders to clean up litter and mismanaged waste from neighborhoods, streets, rivers and other areas. The collaborative efforts that involved more than 700,000 volunteers helped collect more than 232,500 kg of waste during the events.

The events focused on the cleanliness of cities towards achieving SDG 11 which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe,

The collaborative efforts that involved more than 700,000 volunteers helped collect more than 232,500 kg of waste during the events.

resilient and sustainable.

[Full Story](#)



UN Ethiopia, partners commemorate International Day of Peace



The United Nations and its partners commemorated the 2024 International Day of Peace under the theme “Cultivating a Culture of Peace”.

The event brought together key partners and stakeholders, including the Government of Ethiopia, civil society organizations, academia, religious institutions, youth and women networks and peace advocates to discuss the central role of engaging youth and women for achieving lasting peace in Ethiopia.

Participants reflected on how the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) is contributing to a culture of peace and cooperation. Additionally,

the event explored the relevance of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in reducing gender-based violence and promoting peace in the country.

In his remarks to the commemoration on behalf of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, Samuel Doe, UNDP Resident Representative, said, “peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is a dynamic process that requires effort, commitment, and resilience.”

“Empowering women and youth is crucial to our vision for peace. Women are not just victims of conflict; they are vital agents of

change and peacebuilding,” said the Resident Representative.

“The youth of Ethiopia represent the hope and future of this nation. By integrating their voices and contributions into peace processes, we are ensuring that our efforts are inclusive and representative of all segments of society,” he said.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly, and two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

[Full story](#)

UN Women supports Civil Society Organizations’ engagement in transitional justice policy

UN Women has created a platform for the civil society organizations (CSOs) participate in the implementation process of transitional justice policy in Ethiopia.

At a two-day national workshop organized by UN Women from 20 to 21 June 2024 in Bishoftu town, Oromia Region of Ethiopia, women

leaders from non-governmental and civil society organizations and representatives of grassroots community groups from various regions of the country assessed gender sensitivity of the Transitional Justice (TJ) Policy adopted by Ethiopia’s Council of Ministers.

The workshop served as a

platform for the women leaders to identify opportunities, gaps, and to collectively strategize and plan actions to ensure gender sensitivity and women’s participation during the upcoming implementation phases of the Transitional Justice Policy realized.

Key discussions at the workshop included creating awareness of the TJ policy and roles of CSOs in the policy, engagement of women-led CSOs in the implementation process of the TJ Policy as well as assessment of the policy in light of international standards particularly from gender and conflict survivors’ sensitive perspectives.

[Full story](#)



PEACE

PEACE



Ethiopia launches first Sector Skills Body for Agro processing through ILO support



The ILO supports the government's efforts to link Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET),

The ILO supports the government's efforts to link Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), enhance industry partnerships, and promote employability for the many young graduates entering the job market.

With support from the ILO, the first Sector Skills Body (SSB) in the agro-processing sector was officially launched by H.E. Dr. Teshale Berecha, State Minister for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills, in August 2024.

The SSB comprises private sectors, sub-sectors, training and certification agencies, and trade unions.

During the launch, speakers highlighted that many African countries are addressing unemployment, underemployment, and job scarcity by focusing on sectoral approaches to skilling and employability. This demand-driven approach, which links with employers, fosters innovation and provides state-of-the-art training, skills matching, and recognition of lifelong learning talents, ultimately enhancing productivity.

"The establishment of the Sector Skills Body (SSB) symbolizes our commitment to aligning education and

training with industry needs. Today, we officially launch the Agro-processing SSB, a pilot initiative that has received substantial technical and financial support from the ILO over the past few years," stated H.E. Dr. Teshale Berecha, State Minister for Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Labour and Skills.

Through the ProAgro Ethiopia "Promoting Decent Employment in the Agribusiness Sector" project, the ILO has been providing technical guidance through its Skills Specialists and leveraging collaboration with partners such as GIZ and the World Bank's Skills and Employability program. The project also dedicated resources for regional and South-South cooperation experience sharing in India and China (to capture private sector-led models), as well as in South Africa and Ghana (on examples of Sector Skills Bodies). Additionally, short-term training at the ITC/ILO knowledge centre in Turin was facilitated by the project. These exposures culminated in national ownership and a commitment to proceed with setting up the SSB and developing a roadmap for future skills development.

[Full story](#)

UNIDO supporting Ethiopia to harness potential of leather sector for transformation



The quality of hides and skins is crucial for the quality of leather and leather products. With support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Labour and Skills, UNIDO overhauled the national hide and skin regulatory framework.

UNIDO also developed a curriculum to guide the development of training manuals to serve TVET colleges and centers to train professionals on occupational standards, skills and practices of improving the quality production and marketing of raw hides and skins.

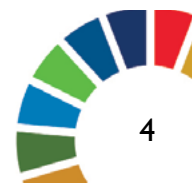
As a pilot intervention, flaying machines have been introduced to six abattoirs to reduce the damage on raw hides and skins during flaying operation. Additionally, the machines and high-quality tools have successfully enhanced the quality of raw hides and skins and meat.

UNIDO's support came through the

"Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC)" project funded by the European Union (EU).

UNIDO-LISEC project is being implemented in and around Modjo City having been commissioned in 2018 to create greater economic and decent employment opportunities, especially for women and youth through the development of the Ethiopian leather industry and the Modjo leather industrial park that aims to cluster the leather industry for the sustainable operation of the leather production and environmental management.

[Full story](#)



IGNITE Climate innovation challenge: Innovation meets resilience



The World Food Programme has launched its first-ever climate innovation challenge in Ethiopia with partners CARE Ethiopia and Iceaddis.

At the kick-off event hosted on 5 September, local climate-resilient food systems innovators and entrepreneurs gathered to pitch innovative initiatives that address the impact of climate change on the food security of communities in the Afar and Amhara regions.

Supported by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and

Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), this initiative underscores the importance of local solutions to address Ethiopia's evolving climate challenges by focusing on three core areas: markets and consumption, climate-adaptive agriculture, and water resource innovations. The overarching goal is to enhance climate resilience while empowering innovators to shape sustainable, climate-smart food systems.

WFP and partners received 143 applications through an open call, and 12 innovators who fulfilled the

selection criteria were invited to pitch their ideas to a group of judges.

The innovators took centre stage to present their context-specific local solutions for climate resilience and food security in the Afar and Amhara regions. Nervous yet determined after the coaching sessions they received ahead of the pitch day on how to pitch to investors, the participants shared ideas ranging from climate-adaptive integrated agriculture to improved agricultural technologies and inputs, to water resource management to climate-smart fish farming.

The atmosphere was electrified as the entrepreneurs faced the panel one by one. The judges' encouragement and constructive inputs echoed around the room. All participants walked away with valuable insights and a determined resolve to become agents of change for their communities.

[Full story](#)

Climate Change and Navigating Business Challenges

Bridging the gap: The role of public and private sectors



Ethiopia is currently experiencing inconsistent and unpredictable weather events, with communities facing impact of untimely rain, sometimes reduced and other times heavy rainfall, and more frequent floods and droughts.

These changes are said to be broadly linked with the impact of climate change driven by global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Despite Ethiopia emitting a relatively very small proportion of GHG emissions compared to other countries, the country is vulnerable to the impact. The adverse effects of climate change, coupled with the low adaptive capacity



of the country, affect multiple sectors of the economy.

The impact is particularly felt in the agriculture sector and food security, affecting the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities as they rely heavily on rain-fed agriculture.

These challenges not only threaten farmers' livelihoods but also have a wider effect on the country's GDP, development, and rural value chains.

Recognizing this cross-sectoral impact, both public and private sectors in Ethiopia have been identified as key

sources of financing, and leading in implementing climate actions and green growth initiatives. A joint public-private action is essential to achieve the country's climate goals, however, significant barriers hinder private sector engagement, highlighting the need for innovative approaches and de-risking solutions to catalyze their involvement in climate actions.

Private sector: Navigating challenges

The food manufacturing sector, like many others, is facing a significant challenge due to its reliance on agricultural products as a primary input.

Teferi Mengesha has worked in this sector for more than 25 years and currently serves as a production manager at the Rediet Food Complex in Adama.

[Full story](#)

Enhancing Knowledge for Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation



Inadequate WASH infrastructure causes significant health threats to the people and negatively impacts economic growth, so the proper assessment of associated risks can create resilient systems that can withstand environmental challenges.

In response to that, UNOPS project team developed WASH Risk Assessment Tool, which can evaluate potential vulnerabilities within existing or planned infrastructure and help WASH planners and designers to identify risks related to technical, environmental and socio-economic factors.

To this effect, a workshop on risk assessment analysis in the water,

sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector was organised in Mekelle, within the Government of Ethiopia's Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict Affected Communities in Ethiopia (3R4CACE) Project, which is financed by the World Bank and implemented by UNOPS.

The workshop that focused on the risk analysis as an essential element when planning WASH interventions contributed to enhancing the systematic and coherent knowledge and skills of 50 experts, officers and stakeholders working in planning, designing, building and running WASH infrastructures in Tigray.

A safe, continuous and sustainable access to clean water, adequate sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene are essential for preventing diseases, promoting health and ensuring well-being and the socio-economic development of communities.

[Full story](#)

Government of Italy, UNOPS sign €1.5 mln Project agreement to strengthen Suhul Hospital in Tigray

The Government of Italy and UNOPS signed a project agreement known as "Strengthening Suhul Hospital in Shire-Tigray".

The project aims to enhance the healthcare services at Suhul Hospital through the procurement of cutting-edge medical equipment that will improve the hospital's diagnostic, therapeutic and patient-monitoring capabilities.

The project, funded by the Italian Government, will make it possible to re-establish a fully functional health facility in the area to ensure healthcare services for the population and improve the overall quality of care provided to the community.

The project will benefit 18,000 people per month out of which 50% are women.

[Full story](#)

Baking Hope, One "Injera" at a Time

Amane Adem, a 29-year-old woman from Asella in Ethiopia's Oromia region, has faced numerous challenges due to a physical disability affecting both her legs. In addition to her own struggles, she bears the responsibility of supporting her visually impaired sister and her family of four on a limited income. Despite these hardships, Amane's story is one of remarkable resilience and dedication, fuelled by opportunities for growth and self-improvement. Through the ILO Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) Programme, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Amane found new hope. The Generate Your Business Idea (GYB), Start



Your Business (SYB), Life Skills, and Financial Literacy training programs offered by these organizations provided a lifeline for her.

Upon hearing about the training from her neighbours, Amane eagerly

enrolled. The comprehensive training not only equipped her with valuable business skills but also boosted her confidence, enabling her to forge a new path for her family.

[Full story](#)



From refugee to entrepreneur: ILO's mentorship transforms Fatima's small business

Fatima Khalif Abdi, a Somali refugee in Ethiopia and mother of five, transformed her maize business with support from Business Plan Competition, expanding her offerings and setting ambitious goals for the future.

Fatima exemplifies the transformative power of Business Plan Competition (BPC) launched by the ILO and Hasi Consulting in Ethiopia.

Living in Ethiopia for past 35 years, Fatima always dreamed of expanding her maize selling business but being a refugee limited her access to capital for procure grains and other items in large quantities.

She participated and won the BPC, a unique business development support initiative which helped small and micro business owners to learn business development strategies and provided them with a monetary stimuli for expanding their business. The precisely developed and sustainable plans won an award of ETB 90,000 (US\$900) and even access to invaluable business



development services. Fatima Khalif Abdi making presentation at the Business Plan Competition selection round. This support has enabled Fatima to diversify her offerings, now including grains, butter, and even coal – all catering to the needs of her local community.

All the BPC winners including Fatima are receiving guidance from Business Development Service Providers,

supporting them in refining their business practices.

"Even now, the business development service providers visit me," she says, expressing her newfound sense of security amidst country's economic uncertainty. With a determined spirit, Fatima sets her sights on an ambitious goal: owning a shop within the next five years.

[Full story](#)

PROSPERITY

Offering the best possible start in life

Improving lifesaving services for the most vulnerable children and their families in Ethiopia



Midwife Barnabas works at the Metie Health Centre which has a newly renovated maternity ward where

mothers in this community near Kombolcha, Amhara region, can safely deliver babies.

Fatuma gave birth to Ferusa earlier this month, and she said: "I am so full of joy. Ferusa is beautiful, healthy and so strong."

"I am so happy with this new ward as the old one was very run down, and the majority of pregnant mothers were delivering their babies at home which is unsafe," he said. "Marifa is about to give birth, and she is getting the care she needs. Since the ward opened, I have helped give birth to 10 healthy babies in the last 2 months. It makes me so proud."

Fatuma gave birth to Ferusa earlier this month, and she said: "I am so full of joy. Ferusa is beautiful, healthy and so strong."

[Full story](#)

PEOPLE





Felmata Tejuden is a bright grade eight student but school life for her, and many children attending the Kebbele Primary School in rural Sofi woreda, Harar region, is not the same as it is for those living in the urban areas.

The Kebbele Primary School is one of the government-owned schools established to expand access to formal education in rural communities. The school was established fourteen years ago, with local community helping with initial construction; the government has since expanded the infrastructure with an additional building. The school currently enrolls 441 students (23% female) and employs 14 teachers.

The regional government has provided the school with desktops and some audiovisual materials for e-learning. Still, the equipment has largely gone untouched by staff and students.

The predicament was access to reliable electricity in the school and surrounding area.

Yohannes Simenew has been the Kebele Primary School Principal for over a decade.

Yohannes reflects, “The absence of electricity/power supply in

the school and the surrounding community means that we have been forced to travel to the town to prepare and print lesson plans, worksheets, and other supporting materials at our own cost.”

The principal shared his concern that the school's inability to use the technology materials, especially to teach the lower grades, hindered the students' cognitive development.

Neima Yosuf, a member of the school's parent association for about five years shares similar concerns about the challenges and missed opportunities facing students due to a lack of power in their community.

Neima complains, “Our children never get the chance to learn and benefit from the modern equipment provided by the regional government.” She explains that most children study with a Kuraz, a local name for kerosene lamps. She notes this is not a convenient setup and negatively impacts students' performance.

Ramadan Ahmed has been a school guard for the past fourteen years and was frustrated with attempting to secure the compound in the dark. He reflected, “I had only one flashlight, which was insufficient and inconvenient to monitor the area and address security concerns”.

Overcoming obstacles

Given the challenges faced by the school communities and the significance of the education sector as stipulated in the sustainable development goals, an integrated renewable energy scheme initiative has emerged to address the issue. The initiative is a south-south trilateral pilot project on biogas, biomass, and solar technologies, to facilitate a transition to sustainable energy use. The project brings together the governments of Ethiopia (through the Ministry of Water and Energy) and China (through the Ministry of Commerce of China, MOFCOM) in partnership with UNDP.

Full story

UN Ethiopia

Bimonthly Newsletter by the UN Communications Group

Email: uncommunications@un.org

 **UN in Ethiopia**

 **UNEthiopia**

