

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Annual Results Report

JULY 2023–JUNE 2024



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I. Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Annual Results Report for the period July 2023–June 2024. This report reflects the collective efforts of the United Nations country team in Ethiopia, in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, donors, civil society and other development partners, to advance sustainable development and improve the lives of the Ethiopian people.

Over the past year, the United Nations has made significant strides in supporting development priorities of Ethiopia. Together, we have worked to strengthen access to essential services, promote gender equality, address food insecurity and provide durable solutions for displacement-affected populations. Our efforts have reached millions of people across the country, empowering communities, building resilience and fostering hope for a better future. These achievements reflect the unwavering commitment of the United Nations to leaving no one behind and ensuring that the most vulnerable are supported.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. The volatile security situation in parts of the country, recurrent climatic shocks, and economic pressures have tested our resilience and capacity to deliver. These challenges have underscored the importance of fostering long-term resilience, addressing systemic inequities and strengthening partnerships to ensure sustainable development outcomes.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of our partners. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for its leadership and commitment, to our donors for their generous

contributions and to civil society organizations for their tireless efforts in reaching the most vulnerable. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of other development partners, including international financial institutions, private sector actors and academic institutions, whose expertise and resources have been instrumental in driving progress. Your dedication and partnership have been critical in creating a brighter future for all Ethiopians.

As we look ahead, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 10-Year Development Plan of Ethiopia. Together, we can overcome challenges, build resilience and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to thrive. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will continue to make meaningful strides towards a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable future for Ethiopia.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to this shared mission.



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

II. 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

for Africa 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.

Resident organizations

Resident agencies



Non-resident agencies



III. Key Implementing and Development Partners

The United Nations in Ethiopia partnered with more than 380 national and international implementing partners in 2023–2024. This includes the government, civil society organizations (CSOs), international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, media, financial institutions and private sectors.

Government partners closely working with the United Nations include ministries, regional bureaux, democratic institutions, agencies, authorities and commissions. 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, Urban and Infrastructure, and Women and Social Affairs are among ministries with mandates aligned to the United Nations. Additionally, the United Nations has strong partnerships with other government bodies such as the House of People's Representatives, the House of Federation, federal and regional courts, the Disaster Risk Management Commission, the Environment Protection Authority, Ethiopian Forestry Development, Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ethiopian Investment Commission,

Ethiopian Media Authority, Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman, the National Dialogue Commission (NDC), Ethiopian Statistical Service, the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Ethiopian Federal Police Commission, Ethiopian Federal Prison Commission, Refugees and Returnees Service, administrations, regional states, woreda bureaux and other offices.

The support of development partners, including bilateral donors, global funds and financial institutions, has been instrumental for the successful implementation of the 278 projects the United Nations implemented over the reporting period. Key donor partners include: African Development Bank Group; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; European Union; Governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; Gavi; IKEA Foundation; Mastercard Foundation; and the World Bank.

215

Government

132

CSOs, community-based organizations & professional associations

24

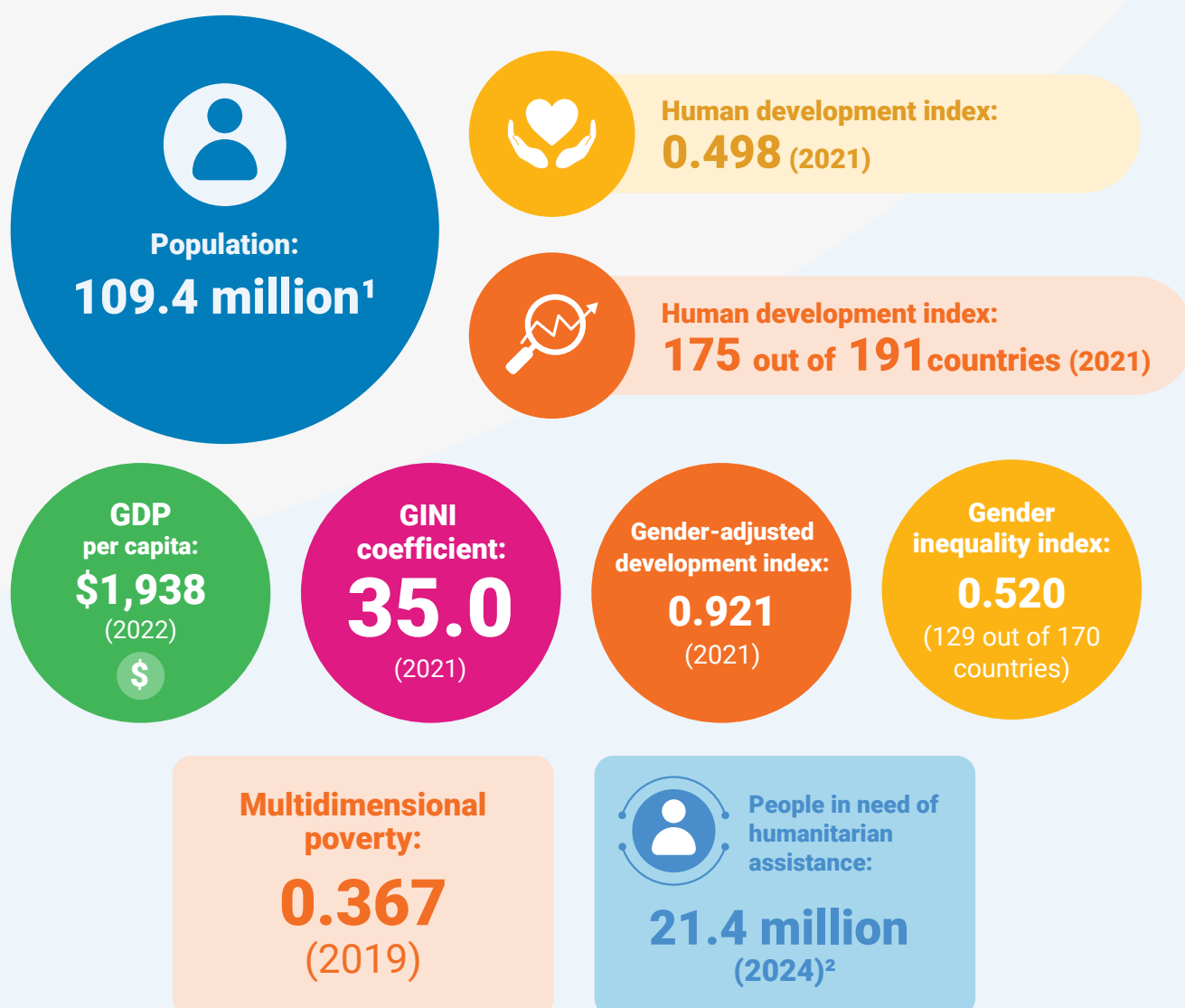
Academia and media

18

Private sector, international financial institutions and institutional organizations

IV. Country Context and Trends

Key figures



¹ Ethiopian Statistical Service projection.

² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Ethiopia (February 2024).

Ethiopia is undergoing a period of significant transformation, marked by rapid urbanization, population growth, and ambitious economic reforms. These developments present immense opportunities for progress, while also posing challenges that require coordinated efforts to address. The reporting period was characterized by a complex operating environment shaped by security dynamics, natural disasters, and ongoing post-conflict recovery efforts. Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has demonstrated resilience and a strong commitment to advancing peace, stability, and development.

The Ethiopian Government has made notable strides in fostering peace and reconciliation. Efforts to resolve disputes through dialogue have gained momentum, with discussions initiated with armed groups, including the Oromo Liberation Army, and the establishment of a regional peace committee in Amhara to mediate with armed groups. Progress in implementing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement has been particularly evident in the southern zone of Tigray, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) have begun returning to areas such as Alamata. A significant milestone was achieved in July 2024 with a tripartite agreement between the Tigray interim administration, the Amhara regional government, and the federal Government, outlining plans for the safe and organized return of IDPs to the contested western zone of Tigray. Additionally, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts targeting ex-combatants have advanced, contributing to broader stability following the northern Ethiopia conflict.

On the policy front, the Ethiopian Government has taken important steps to strengthen governance and transitional justice mechanisms. In April 2024, the Council of Ministers adopted the Transitional Justice Policy, followed by the approval of its implementation road map in August 2024. This road map establishes the legal frameworks for creating independent institutions to guide the country's transitional justice processes. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (NDC) has also made significant progress, completing the identification of participants across 10 regional states and two city administrations. By September 2024, agenda-gathering efforts were finalized in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and regions such as Benishangul-Gumuz, Harari, Central Ethiopia, Sidama, and Gambella. These efforts aim to ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in the upcoming national dialogue process, which seeks to address Ethiopia's political and social challenges.

Ethiopia also achieved a historic milestone in its economic reform agenda by adopting a free-market foreign exchange rate in July 2024. This reform, a key component of the government's broader economic

transformation strategy, has been positively received by international financial institutions, unlocking \$11.5 billion in support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These reforms are expected to enhance investor confidence, improve foreign currency availability, and support long-term economic development. Additionally, Ethiopia has continued to invest in renewable energy projects, including hydropower and solar energy, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and improve energy access for rural communities.

While Ethiopia has made notable progress in several areas, the country continues to face complex social, economic, and environmental challenges. Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, driven by the combined effects of conflict, drought, and climatic hazards. During the reporting period, approximately 15.8 million people were classified as acutely food insecure, exacerbated by a temporary suspension of food assistance. However, significant progress has been made in transforming Ethiopia's food systems to address these challenges. The Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated strong leadership through the development of the Ethiopian Food System Transformation and Nutrition Pathways and Roadmap, which outlines comprehensive solutions to systemic vulnerabilities in the food system. Initiatives such as the Seqota Declaration, aimed at ending stunting in children under two, and the Ten in Ten program have contributed to measurable improvements in food production and nutrition outcomes. Improved rainfall during the Meher cropping season, coupled with efforts to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure in conflict-affected areas, has also supported increased crop yields and livestock recovery. These efforts, alongside the government's commitment to integrating climate resilience into food systems through the Climate Action Blueprint (CAB) Strategy, provide a strong foundation for addressing food insecurity and building a more sustainable and inclusive food system in the long term.

Education, which is critical to Ethiopia's long-term development, has also seen progress, particularly in expanding access to pre-primary and secondary education. The gross enrolment rate (GER) for pre-primary education reached 50 percent in 2022/23, and secondary GER increased to 43.8 percent. However, significant challenges remain, with over 9 million children out of school due to conflict, displacement, and natural disasters, and more than 6,000 schools closed or damaged. Learning outcomes are alarmingly low, with 68 percent of Grade 2 students unable to read and 90 percent of 10-year-olds unable to comprehend a simple text. These challenges are compounded by inadequate school infrastructure, a shortage of trained teachers, and limited access to learning materials.

In response, the government has implemented key reforms, including the Education and Training Policy 2022, the Education and Training Roadmap 2030, and the expansion of the national school feeding program, which now supports over 7.2 million children. Significant new funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the World Bank will further support foundational learning, digitalize the Education Management Information System (EMIS), and enhance school leadership. These efforts provide a strong foundation for improving access to quality education and ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all children in Ethiopia.

Progress on gender equality in Ethiopia has been mixed. Notable advances have been made in increasing women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles, as well as in women's economic empowerment through improved access to assets and services. However, gaps persist, including delays in endorsing key policies such as the new Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy and the family law for the Afar and Somali regions. These challenges are further compounded by gender-based barriers in education, where girls face higher dropout rates and limited access to safe and inclusive learning environments. Addressing these gaps is critical to ensuring that women and girls across Ethiopia can

fully participate in and benefit from the country's development.

Global economic trends and climate change have also posed challenges to Ethiopia's stability and development. Economic pressures, including inflation and global market fluctuations, have strained livelihoods. Climate change has further contributed to environmental degradation, affecting agriculture and water resources, which are critical for the livelihoods of many Ethiopians. Nevertheless, Ethiopia has made progress in renewable energy development, with ongoing investments in hydropower and solar energy projects that aim to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and improve energy access for rural communities.

Youth unemployment, mobility, and displacement continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. However, the government's continued focus on economic reforms, peacebuilding, and social development provides a strong foundation for addressing these issues and fostering a more inclusive and prosperous future for all Ethiopians.



Photo: Sumeya Edris enjoys a hot meal with her friends in her primary school in Wollo, Amhara region. School meals are a critical safety net, keeping children in school and improving educational outcomes. The United Nations and partners are supporting the government to deliver school meals at scale in Ethiopia.

Source: World Food Programme (WFP), 2024.

V. United Nations Country Team Support to National Development Priorities Through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Overview of results



Outcome I: People

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



Photo: Haile Mohammed, the 12-year-old son of Mulu Bezuneh, a 40-year-old mother of eight, says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up. His mother is overjoyed that after escaping the country's internal instability, he is now attending school in a secure setting.

Source: UNICEF, 2023.



Outcome I: People – All people in Ethiopia enjoy the rights and capabilities to realize their potential equally and with dignity

The work of the United Nations under this outcome is rooted in the understanding that human development, equitable access to services, gender equality and durable solutions for displacement-affected populations are deeply interconnected. By addressing the root causes of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, such as low levels of human development, inequitable access to essential services, gender inequality and displacement, the United Nations aims to empower individuals and communities to achieve their full potential.

During the reporting period, the United Nations achieved significant results across multiple areas, reflecting its commitment to advancing human rights, promoting gender equality and ensuring that no one is left behind.

These achievements demonstrate the holistic approach of the United Nations to addressing the most pressing challenges of Ethiopia, ensuring that vulnerable populations are supported and empowered to lead dignified lives.

Key achievements include:



Supporting **1.5 million people** through community-based interventions to prevent child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), resulting in the **cancellation of 3,755 child marriages and 167 FGM cases**.



Delivering nutrition assistance to over **5.5 million** acutely food-insecure people and supporting **2 million** pregnant and breastfeeding women as well as children with specialized nutrition services.



Facilitating the return and reintegration of displaced populations, while supporting durable solutions for over **1.5 million IDPs**.



Providing over **630,000** zero-dose children with life-saving vaccinations, increasing national immunization coverage for key vaccines.



Reaching over **800,000** adolescents and young people with life skills and vocational training to enhance their employability and civic participation.

Output 1.1: Young people, especially those left behind in education and employment, are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to access decent jobs and participate in civic life

With adolescents and young adults (aged 10–29 years) comprising 42 per cent of the population of Ethiopia, the United Nations has prioritized equipping young people with the tools they need to succeed. Between 2023 and 2024, over 800,000 adolescents and young people benefited from life skills development, vocational training and skills enhancement programmes. These initiatives targeted those left behind in education and employment, empowering them to access decent jobs and actively participate in civic life.

Life skills and vocational training

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the United Nations revised the national life skills education curriculum to better address the needs of adolescents. During the reporting period, 134,451 adolescents (58.5 per cent girls) across 10 regions³ participated in life skills education programmes, which helped them build resilience to humanitarian shocks, improve communication and problem-solving skills, and make informed decisions. Of these, 38,393 adolescents (58 per cent girls) were in humanitarian settings, while 96,058 (59 per cent girls) were in development contexts.

Additionally, over 683,000 adolescents and young people gained knowledge on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV through youth-friendly services. The United Nations also strengthened the capacity of service providers to deliver adolescent- and youth-friendly services, ensuring that young people not only received critical information, but also had access to supportive and responsive care.

Youth peace and security (YPS)

The concept of YPS has emerged as a vital component of peacebuilding efforts in Ethiopia. To support this, the United Nations trained 46 participants (14 women and 32 men) from CSOs, United Nations organizations and government institutions on YPS programming in December 2023. This was complemented by an experience-sharing workshop for technical staff from the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), which included 30 participants (5 women and 25 men). The workshop facilitated learning from other African

countries and provided valuable insights for the YPS framework of Ethiopia. Currently, the development of the YPS National Action Plan is in the preparation phase, with assessments, stakeholder mapping and road map development progressing well under the guidance of the United Nations.

To further advance the YPS agenda, the United Nations supported the establishment of YPS task forces at both national and regional levels, as well as community dialogue platforms in conflict-affected areas. These platforms bring together community leaders, women and youth groups, and religious institutions to resolve conflicts and promote peace. Additionally, peace clubs have been established both in and out of schools to engage young people in fostering a culture of peace, conflict mediation and de-escalation.

Through the Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme, supported by European Union for International Partnerships, 267 youth peacebuilders (95 women and 172 men) in Asosa and Gambella were trained in peacebuilding and conflict mediation using the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Peacebuilding Manual. These peacebuilders have since become active trainers in their communities, cascading their knowledge and promoting a culture of peace and social cohesion. By mid-2024, they had reached over 1,000 additional youth through their efforts.

Youth-led initiatives

Other youth-led initiatives, such as Sports for Peace activities in Gambella, vocational training in making soap for 60 refugees and the provision of start-up capital for small enterprises have further empowered young people to contribute to their communities and resolve conflicts. Under the PROSPECTS partnership, the United Nations implemented an innovative PhotoVoice project in Jigjiga, which trained 11 youth (five women and six men) in photography and provided them with DSLR cameras. The project amplified young people's voices by capturing their perspectives and lived experiences, particularly in refugee, IDP and host community contexts. It also documented the impacts of climate change on youth in the Somali region and advocated for meaningful youth participation through exhibitions. Some participants have even leveraged their new skills to establish photography studios, turning their talents into income-generating opportunities.

At the heart of all these initiatives is the commitment of the United Nations to inclusive youth engagement and leadership. By equipping young people with the

³ Amhara, Afar, Somali, Oromia, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Sidama, South Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia and Central Ethiopia.

knowledge and skills they need to succeed, the United Nations is helping to create a generation of empowered youth who can contribute to the development, peacebuilding and social cohesion of Ethiopia.

Output 1.2: Gender inequalities and violence reduced, rights and accountability mechanisms strengthened, and opportunities for women and children enhanced

The United Nations has made significant progress in advancing gender equality, empowering women and addressing GBV in Ethiopia. Through a combination of policy development, capacity-building and direct support to vulnerable populations, the United Nations has worked to ensure that women and girls are protected, empowered and included in decision-making processes.

Strengthening policies and frameworks for gender equality

The United Nations supported the development of key national policies and frameworks to promote gender equality and address GBV. A major milestone was the development of the national GBV standard operating procedures (SOPs), which provide a comprehensive framework for preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV across Ethiopia. These SOPs aim to standardize and improve the quality of services provided to survivors of GBV, ensuring a coordinated and effective response.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by women in specific sectors, the United Nations also developed SOPs to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) in agro-industrial parks. These SOPs are designed to protect women working in these settings, ensuring their safety and well-being while promoting gender-sensitive practices in the workplace.

In addition, the United Nations played a pivotal role in drafting the first Women Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan of Ethiopia. To support its endorsement and implementation, the United Nations created a platform for 51 women parliamentarians, members of standing committees, the Women's Caucus and regional council members to deliberate on the plan. This initiative has strengthened women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable approach to conflict resolution and governance.

Empowering women and girls

The United Nations has implemented a range of programmes to empower women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Through its relief assistance programmes, the United Nations reached 769,041 female-headed households, providing essential support to women and their families in conflict- and disaster-affected areas. This assistance has been critical in helping women rebuild their lives and achieve greater resilience.

To further empower women economically, the United Nations supported vocational training, access to financial resources and livelihood programmes. These initiatives have enabled women to achieve economic independence, particularly in displacement-affected and rural areas. For adolescent girls, the United Nations provided life skills training to 87,875 participants, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions and resist harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM.

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769,041
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relief assistance programmes

Preventing and responding to GBV

The United Nations has prioritized the prevention of GBV and the provision of comprehensive support services for survivors. Through community-based interventions, the United Nations reached 1.5 million people to prevent child marriage and FGM. These efforts resulted in the cancellation of 3,755 child marriages and 167 FGM cases, while 325 communities made public declarations to end these harmful practices. These achievements reflect a growing societal commitment to gender equality and the protection of women and girls.

For survivors of GBV, the United Nations provided direct support through safe houses, one-stop centres and psychosocial support services, benefiting 24,850 individuals. These services were complemented by capacity-building initiatives for service providers, ensuring that survivors received high-quality care and support. In humanitarian settings, the United Nations implemented targeted programmes to prevent GBV and support survivors, including the distribution of dignity kits, the establishment of safe spaces for women and girls, and the integration of GBV prevention into broader humanitarian responses.

Promoting women's leadership and participation

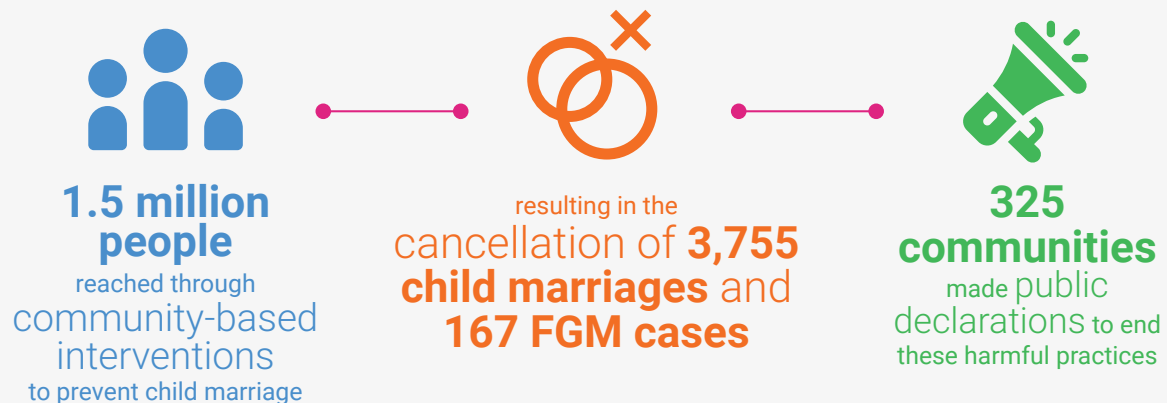
The United Nations has worked to enhance women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes at all levels. Through its Women Peace

Ambassadors initiative, the United Nations trained women to lead community projects and promote peacebuilding efforts. These ambassadors have played a critical role in resolving conflicts and ensuring that women's voices are included in peace processes.

To further strengthen women's leadership, the United Nations trained 135 female parliamentarians and over 560 experts on gender equality, GBV and sexual harassment.⁴ These efforts have equipped women leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to advocate for gender-responsive policies and programmes. Additionally, the United Nations supported the establishment of community dialogue platforms in conflict-affected areas, bringing together women, youth and community leaders to address local challenges and promote social cohesion.

Mainstreaming gender equality across sectors

The United Nations has integrated gender equality into all aspects of its programming, ensuring that women and girls benefit from and contribute to development efforts. For example, gender-sensitive school feeding programmes reached 392,643 children, including a significant proportion of girls, helping to reduce gender disparities in education. Similarly, women were prioritized in food distribution and livelihood programmes, ensuring that female-headed households and other vulnerable groups received the support they needed to recover from crises.



⁴ This includes: 126 employees, including 69 women that received training of trainers' course on preventing school-related GBV; 119 (62 women) health workers who received training of trainers' course on the National Guideline of Prevention and Response to Workplace Harassment and Sexual Misconduct; 50 health workforces from Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service and Ethiopian Public Health Institute who received basic training to prohibit unethical behaviour, identify and manage cases; 28 emergency health workers trained on response to GBV/sexual violence; and 110 inter-agency bodies at federal, regional, zonal and woreda levels that were capacitated on response to GBV.

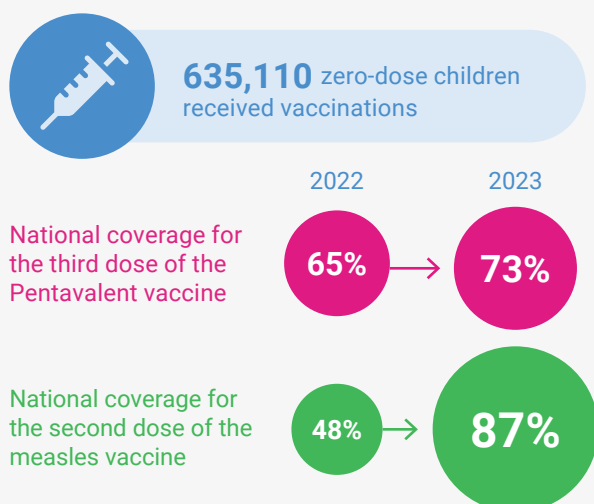
Output 1.3: Equitable access to basic social services is strengthened, benefiting vulnerable marginalized and displacement-affected people

The United Nations has made significant strides in strengthening equitable access to basic social services in Ethiopia, focusing on health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and nutrition. These efforts have targeted vulnerable, marginalized and displacement-affected populations, ensuring that essential services reach those most in need.

Health

The United Nations has made significant strides in strengthening the health system in Ethiopia, improving access to essential health services and addressing critical health challenges. These efforts have focused on immunization, maternal and child health, SRH, disease prevention and control, and emergency health services, benefiting vulnerable, marginalized and displacement-affected populations.

Immunization and vaccine management: Through the Big Catch-Up and Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization programmes, the United Nations ensured that 635,110 zero-dose children received vaccinations, significantly improving immunization coverage across the country. As a result, national coverage for the third dose of the Pentavalent vaccine increased from 65 per cent in 2022 to 73 per cent in 2023, while coverage for the second dose of the measles vaccine rose dramatically from 48 per cent to 87 per cent during the same period. The dropout rate for the Pentavalent vaccine decreased to 5 per cent, reflecting improved retention in immunization programmes.



To support these achievements, the United Nations contributed to effective vaccine management, which reached 85 per cent, meeting WHO standards. Efforts to expand cold chain capacity also increased national storage capacity from 53 per cent in 2022 to 62.4 per cent in 2023, ensuring the safe storage and distribution of vaccines to remote and underserved areas.

Maternal and child health: The United Nations has played a critical role in improving maternal and child health outcomes in Ethiopia. The proportion of antenatal care clients completing four visits increased from 69 per cent in 2022 to 78 per cent in 2023, while the percentage of births attended by qualified health professionals rose from 71 per cent to 74 per cent during the same period.⁵ These improvements were supported by technical and financial assistance for the adaptation of guidelines, capacity-building, and the coordination and monitoring of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent and youth health (RMNCAYH) interventions. Additionally, essential drug availability in health facilities increased from 80 per cent in 2022 to 84 per cent in 2024,⁶ ensuring that critical medicines were accessible to those in need.

SRH: The United Nations has strengthened access to SRH services by improving systems, training health professionals and equipping health facilities. These efforts included the implementation of Family Planning Services quality standards at public health facilities, which enhanced the capacity of service providers to deliver comprehensive and post-partum family planning services. To ensure the quality of deployed health professionals, a computer-based competency exam was introduced for midwifery and other health disciplines, with 9,933 individuals participating in the licensing exam across 22 examination centres in six regions.

Through these initiatives, 31,495 women and girls accessed SRH and GBV response services, while 3,750 women and girls received dignity kits, and 94 GBV survivors received financial support. The United Nations also supported the integration of cervical cancer screening into university hospitals, enabling 96,838 women and girls to receive screenings. Among these, 695 individuals were diagnosed as positive, and 687 (98.8 per cent) underwent treatment procedures such as cryotherapy, loop electrosurgical excision procedure and punch biopsy. Additionally, 611 fistula clients were identified and accessed repair services, improving their quality of life.

⁵ Health Information Systems Programme, University of Oslo, "DHIS2". Available at <https://dhis2.org/> (accessed on 4 February 2025).

⁶ Ibid.



Photo: Lihan Ali Hassen, 1 year old, is screened for malnutrition at Kelina Health Post, Dessie Zuria Woreda through the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition programme of the United Nations in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.

Source: WFP, 2024.

HIV/AIDS: Ethiopia has achieved epidemic control for HIV at the national level, with an incidence rate of less than 0.01 per cent. The country is progressing towards the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and WHO 95-95-95 targets,⁷ recording 90 per cent of people living with HIV knowing their status, 94 per cent of those diagnosed receiving antiretroviral therapy and 96 per cent of those on treatment achieving viral suppression. However, progress among children remains lower at 66-72-91. To address this gap, the United Nations supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in developing the 2023/2024–2026/2027 HIV National Strategic Plan, updating national HIV guidelines and implementing a paediatric HIV programme acceleration initiative to enhance services for children.

Disease prevention and control: The United Nations has been instrumental in combating communicable diseases in Ethiopia. Through mass drug administration campaigns for neglected tropical diseases, 15.2 million individuals were treated for soil-transmitted helminthiasis, 4.7 million for schistosomiasis and 402,284 for lymphatic

filariasis. These efforts were achieved through close collaboration with government and development partners, contributing to targeted treatment coverage for preventive chemotherapy for neglected tropical diseases.

In the fight against tuberculosis (TB), the treatment success rate for drug-sensitive TB reached 87 per cent, while drug-resistant TB achieved a 61 per cent success rate. Over 300 GeneXpert machines were distributed to improve TB diagnosis, particularly for children. Women accounted for 39 per cent of notified new and relapse TB cases, while children under 15 years of age made up 10 per cent of notified cases.

In March 2024, a nationwide campaign vaccinated 1,456,814 girls aged 14 years against the human papillomavirus, achieving 95 per cent coverage. Ethiopia also reported progress in polio surveillance, with a national non-polio acute flaccid paralysis rate of 3.3 per 100,000 children under 15 years of age, exceeding the outbreak response target.

⁷ Ethiopian Public Health Institute, spectrum estimate.



Photo: Education is a lifeline for children living in emergencies. Six-year-old Hawlett and her family fled the Oromia region and relocated to Dessie, Amhara due to conflict. With support from partners, the United Nations is supporting displaced children such as Hawlett with safe spaces to learn and play.

Source: UNICEF, 2024.

Emergency health services: To address the health needs of emergency-affected communities, the United Nations deployed 68 mobile health and nutrition teams, which provided primary healthcare services to women and children. These teams delivered consultations, distributed emergency drug kits, and integrated health, nutrition and WASH services. During the reporting period, 316,016 individuals received medical consultations, while 149,085 individuals accessed mental health and psychosocial support services.

Capacity-building and health workforce development: The United Nations has supported capacity-building for health professionals, with over 1,704 government staff trained on various prioritized health topics. Additionally, 416 health facilities were equipped, and strategic plans, guidelines and protocols were developed to uphold service quality standards. Over 1,400 health professionals improved their skills in maternal and perinatal death surveillance, antenatal care, emergency obstetric care, family planning and comprehensive abortion care.

Animal health and food security: The United Nations also supported the National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center to enhance livestock and crop production through the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis. Using the sterile insect technique, this initiative contributed to food security by providing a sustainable solution to pest control.

Water, sanitation and hygiene services

The United Nations provided 960,000 people with access to WASH services. In Kurmuk (Benishangul-Gumuz region), water systems were rehabilitated, providing at least 10 litres of water per person per day. In Metema, water trucking and the installation of water tanks ensured access to clean water for refugees and host communities. Emergency and transitional latrines were constructed in multiple locations, and hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable populations.

Education

The United Nations has made significant contributions to improving access to quality education for vulnerable, marginalized and displacement-affected populations in Ethiopia. These efforts have focused on early childhood development, emergency education, inclusive education for children with disabilities, curriculum reform and school feeding programmes.

Early childhood development and education (ECDE):

The United Nations supported 118,375 children (48.5 per cent girls) through ECDE programmes in both development and humanitarian settings. This included 72,674 children (49 per cent girls) in development settings and 45,701 children (47 per cent girls) in humanitarian settings. These programmes provided

formal and non-formal school readiness opportunities, which were enhanced by training 572 pre-primary teachers and district education specialists (263 women) on the revised pre-primary curriculum, play-based learning methodologies, and the creation of learning and play materials using locally available resources.

The launch of the national ECDE policy framework, supported by the United Nations, enabled ECDE actors to mobilize resources to strengthen the expansion and quality of pre-primary education programmes. This framework has been instrumental in improving access to early learning opportunities for children across Ethiopia.

Emergency education: In emergency settings, the United Nations ensured that 314,551 children (48 per cent girls), including 61,600 refugee and host community children (54 per cent girls), accessed formal and non-formal learning opportunities. To support these children, the United Nations distributed learning materials, including school bags with stationery, school-in-a-box kits, recreational kits, furniture and blackboards, benefiting 184,993 children (48 per cent girls) across multiple regions.

In drought-affected areas, access to learning was ensured for 10,821 pre-primary and primary school-age children (52 per cent girls) in the Afar, Oromia, South Ethiopia, Sidama and South West Ethiopia regions. This support reduced the economic burden on families, thereby increasing school enrolment, attendance and retention rates.

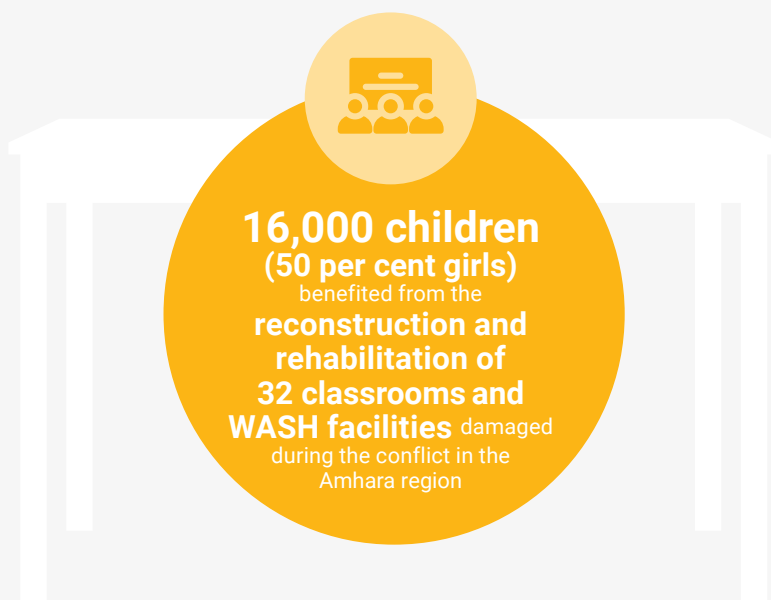
The United Nations also supported the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 32 classrooms and WASH facilities damaged during the conflict in the Amhara region, benefiting 16,000 children (50 per cent girls). These efforts provided learners with safe and appropriate facilities for education.

Education for refugees: The United Nations promoted activities to ensure that refugee children and young people across Ethiopia could access quality education at all levels. This included primary, secondary and higher education, as well as vocational training. These efforts have been critical in providing displaced children with opportunities to learn and develop skills for the future.

Inclusive education: The United Nations prioritized inclusive education, supporting 7,837 children with disabilities (44 per cent girls) in the Amhara, Afar, South West Ethiopia, South Ethiopia and Sidama regions to continue their education. This included 683 visually impaired children, who benefited from orbit readers purchased and distributed by the United Nations. These efforts ensured that children with disabilities had access to the tools and resources needed to participate in learning.

Curriculum reform: The United Nations has been providing financial and technical support to the MoE since 2009 to reform the general education curriculum. Following the roll-out of revised pre-primary and middle school curricula in 2022, the secondary school curriculum was launched for implementation in September 2023. Throughout this process, capacity development was provided for over 4,000 authors, editors and evaluators from the MoE and the centres of excellence in universities.

However, limited financial resources and foreign currency have significantly constrained the timely printing and distribution of the newly developed teaching and learning materials across all regions. Despite these challenges, the curriculum reform has laid the foundation for improving the quality of education in Ethiopia.



School feeding programmes: The United Nations continued to support the Government of Ethiopia in implementing the national school meals programme, which aims to achieve universal school feeding coverage by 2030. In 2023–2024, the programme reached 392,643 school children in 1,171 schools across the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, South Ethiopia and Tigray regions.

Through the school meals programme, over 4,405 metric tons of in-kind food were provided and an additional 283,635,020 Ethiopian birr (ETB) in cash was distributed to support local procurement of food for the home-grown school meals programme. This initiative directly benefited over 8,800 smallholder farmers,

contributing to local agricultural development and food security.

The MoE, with technical and financial support from the United Nations, endorsed the National Home-Grown School Feeding guidelines and standards. These guidelines provide practical guidance for implementing school feeding programmes and set national standards to ensure the quality of school meals. Additionally, the MoE launched the national school feeding programme network in November 2023, bringing together key stakeholders, including line ministries, United Nations organizations, development partners and academic institutions, to effectively plan, coordinate, implement and monitor the national school meals programme.



Photo: Mohamed Hassen, 12 years old, enjoys a hot porridge at school at Hilaweyn Refugee Camp in the Somali region of Ethiopia.
Source: WFP, 2024.



Photo: Infant and Young Child Feeding Nutrition programme in the Sidama region.
Source: UNICEF, 2023.

Nutrition and food assistance

The United Nations provided life-saving treatment to 669,905 children (341,652 girls and 328,253 boys) aged 6–59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition. This integrated approach combined nutrition, health and WASH services, even in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, over 11.8 million children aged 6–59 months received two doses of vitamin A supplementation, 8.8 million children aged 24–59 months received deworming treatment, and more than 2 million pregnant women were provided with iron and folic acid supplementation. The transition from iron and folic acid to multiple micronutrient supplementation was piloted in 21 woredas across six regions, reaching over 100,000 pregnant women, with plans to expand to 20 additional woredas in 2024.

The United Nations distributed 189,800 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and \$14.5 million in cash transfers in 2023, targeting 5.5 million acutely food-insecure people in drought- and conflict-affected regions, including Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray. From January to June 2024, an additional 3.6 million

people received 126,473 metric tons of food and \$11.5 million in cash assistance. These efforts were implemented in partnership with two national and five international NGOs.

In refugee settings, the United Nations provided nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions aligned with the national food and nutrition strategy of Ethiopia. A total of 54,496 children aged 6–59 months (16,828 with severe acute malnutrition and 37,668 with moderate acute malnutrition) were admitted to community-based management of acute malnutrition programmes at 41 nutrition sites. Despite these efforts, major shocks continue to affect progress in achieving nutrition targets in refugee settings.

Through the fresh food voucher programme, the United Nations provided \$4.6 million in e-restricted vouchers to 126,234 beneficiaries from 21,280 households in the Amhara, Afar and Somali regions. This initiative improved dietary diversity and contributed to the prevention of wasting among children as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Output 1.4: Displacement-affected persons enabled to find safe, dignified and voluntary solutions to rebuild their lives in sustainable ways

The United Nations has played a critical role in addressing the needs of IDPs and refugees in Ethiopia, ensuring their rights are protected and promoting durable solutions. Through monitoring, capacity-building and the provision of essential services, the United Nations has worked to alleviate the challenges faced by displacement-affected populations while fostering long-term stability and resilience.

Monitoring and addressing the needs of IDPs

The United Nations monitored and documented the human rights situation of IDPs across various regions, including Tigray, Oromia, Amhara and Afar. These efforts uncovered rights violations such as arbitrary arrests, detentions and extortion by police. By collecting comprehensive and credible data, the United Nations identified the urgent needs of IDPs and facilitated targeted humanitarian responses. This included increasing humanitarian access and providing essential services such as shelter, food and medical care, particularly in Tigray. In Oromia and Amhara, the United Nations supported initiatives to facilitate the safe return and reintegration of IDPs by ensuring their rights were respected and promoting community-based conflict resolution mechanisms.

To strengthen local capacities in the protection of IDPs, the United Nations trained government officials and CSOs on international human rights standards.⁸ These efforts have enhanced the ability of local actors to respond to the needs of displaced populations and uphold their rights.

Durable solutions and long-term planning

Since the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, there has been a significant return of displaced populations, both facilitated and spontaneous. The effects of the agreement are also evident in other regions of the country, where pockets of stability have emerged in previously conflict-ridden communities. However, ongoing unrest in parts of Amhara and Oromia continues to cause further

displacement. Against this backdrop, the United Nations has collaborated with regional entities, including disaster risk management bureaux, to implement long-term solutions.

The establishment of Durable Solutions Working Groups in regions such as Afar, Gambella, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, South Ethiopia, Somali and Tigray has been a key achievement. These groups work closely with regional and federal authorities to develop and implement durable solutions to internal displacement, in line with the action agenda of the United Nations Secretary-General. Strategic and costed action plans have already been finalized in the Somali and Tigray regions and are nearing completion in Afar. These plans aim to address the needs of returnees and support their reintegration into communities.

Inclusion of refugees and displaced populations in national systems

The United Nations worked with the Government of Ethiopia and partners to ensure that refugees and displaced people were included in national health, education and social protection systems. This included supporting the Government in registering refugees and providing them with identity documents, which protect against refoulement (forced return), arbitrary arrest and detention.

Additionally, the United Nations supported the Government in advancing vital events registration for refugees, including the registration of births, marriages, divorces and deaths. This initiative helps prevent statelessness and ensures that individuals can access essential services and exercise their rights.

Provision of essential services in displacement-affected areas

The United Nations provided a wide range of services to displacement-affected populations, including livelihood support, agriculture programmes, peacebuilding initiatives, social cohesion efforts, health services and education. In particular, the United Nations delivered life-saving emergency health interventions, integrated with mental health and psychosocial support services, to vulnerable and displaced populations. These services were also extended to points of entry, such as Metema and Kurmuk, to support those affected by the Sudan crisis.

⁸ A total of eight trainings reached 265 participants (59 women and 206 men) in the Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, South Ethiopia and Tigray regions.

In response to floods and droughts, the United Nations provided targeted support in regions such as Somali, Oromia and Tigray. This included the rehabilitation and construction of seven health facilities in Tigray, South Ethiopia and Amhara, as well as at the Metema point of entry. Medicines and medical supplies were distributed, and last-mile supply chains were strengthened to enhance health systems in affected regions.

Restoring health services in conflict-affected areas

Post-conflict, the United Nations worked to restore access to essential child health services in northern Ethiopia, supporting over 70 primary health facilities. As a result, 67,595 women and children accessed treatment in these facilities, while 3,407,504 women and children affected by conflict and other emergencies received health services. Additionally, 1,265,009 children under 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles and 1.5 million IDPs were provided with essential health services under emergency response programmes.

To ensure the continuity of RMNCAYH services, the United Nations led coordination efforts under the joint United Nations service delivery innovations project in conflict-affected areas. This project targeted 12

districts in Afar, Amhara and Oromia, where RMNCAYH services had been disrupted due to conflict and drought. A comprehensive assessment of health facilities was conducted in Afar and Tigray, and 204 health facilities were rehabilitated across the country, including both minor and major repairs.

Sudan crisis response

As part of the Sudan crisis response, the United Nations supported three rounds of deployments by the national Ethiopian Emergency Medical Team at the Metema point of entry in the Amhara region. Over a three-month period, the team provided 5,125 consultations, addressing common medical issues and ensuring the well-being of patients. The United Nations also constructed a screening area at the Kurmuk point of entry in the Benishangul-Gumuz region to enhance public health screening capacity. This facility was handed over to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute.

To further strengthen health services at points of entry, the United Nations procured medication shelving, maintained two medical ambulances, and delivered medical supplies to Metema and Kurmuk. Additionally, reproductive health and dignity kits were distributed to communities affected by conflict- and climate-related crises.



Access restored to essential child health services in northern Ethiopia, with **over 70 primary health facilities** supported.



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Outcome II: Justice, Democracy and Peace

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

Photo: Biruh Tesfa Village Economic and Social
Association in the Were Illu woreda engaging in savings
and lending for resilience activities.
Source: WFP, 2024.



Outcome II: Justice, Democracy and Peace

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

The work of the United Nations under this outcome focuses on fostering transparent governance, protecting human rights, and promoting social inclusion as essential pillars for building a peaceful and democratic society. By addressing systemic challenges such as weak governance, human rights violations and social exclusion, the United Nations aims to strengthen the institutional frameworks of Ethiopia and empower its people to participate in shaping a just and cohesive

society. Over the reporting period, the United Nations supported Ethiopia in achieving significant milestones, including the adoption of the Transitional Justice Policy, the release of over 1,000 arbitrarily detained individuals, the revitalization of civil registration systems, and the establishment of peace committees to promote reconciliation and social cohesion. These achievements reflect the commitment of the United Nations to advancing justice, democracy and peace in Ethiopia.

Key achievements include:



Strengthened the **institutional capacity of governance and democratic institutions**, enhancing their effectiveness and accountability.



Enabled access to legal aid services for **over 400 women and girls**, empowering them to seek justice and protection.



Secured the release of 1,000 individuals from arbitrary detention, upholding human rights and the rule of law.



Increased birth registration rates from **27.8% in 2022 to 40% in 2023**, improving access to essential services and legal identity for citizens.



Photo: A factory worker in Hawassa getting free legal advice from the centre.
Source: International Labour Organization (ILO), 2024.

Output 2.1. Government capacity strengthened to improve the performance of institutions and promote increased participation, transparency and accountability at the national and subnational levels

Support for transitional justice

In April 2024, the Government of Ethiopia adopted the Transitional Justice Policy and launched its implementation, marking a significant step towards addressing past human rights violations and fostering accountability. The United Nations provided critical support to this process by offering technical assistance and facilitating consultations. Recommendations from the United Nations and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), along with a second Joint Advisory Note⁹ and public report in 2023,¹⁰ informed the policy's development. The United Nations also supported the Transitional Justice Working Group of experts in conducting nationwide consultations with over 3,300 affected individuals, including

1,123 women, ensuring the policy was shaped by a human rights perspective. Targeted consultations with women, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, further enriched the process.

Human rights advocacy and capacity-building

The advocacy efforts of the United Nations led to the release of over 1,000 arbitrarily detained individuals, including women and children, in the Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions. To strengthen human rights monitoring and advocacy, the United Nations conducted 10 training sessions for 319 participants, including 77 women, in the Amhara, Sidama, Somali and Oromia regions. These sessions covered topics such as the human rights-based approach, monitoring and reporting, and advocacy in humanitarian contexts. The trainings enhanced the capacity of CSOs and Early Warning Network members to monitor and advocate for human rights, empowering rights holders to hold duty bearers accountable.

⁹ EHRC and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, EHRC/OHCHR advisory note on the next steps towards the development of a human rights compliant Transitional Justice Policy for Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, October 2023).

¹⁰ EHRC and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the Findings of Community Consultations on Transitional Justice (TJ) with Victims and Affected Populations in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (December 2023).

The establishment of three new Early Warning Networks in Hawassa, Gambella and Asosa, along with the strengthening of six existing networks in Amhara and Oromia, has been instrumental in proactively identifying as well as addressing potential conflicts and human rights violations. Additionally, the United Nations documented 698 human rights violations and abuses between July 2023 and June 2024, contributing to greater advocacy for accountability and justice.

Institutional reforms and capacity strengthening

The Ethiopian Police University, with support from the United Nations, initiated a human rights audit of its police training curriculum to institutionalize principles of human rights and gender equality. As part of this effort, 12 out of 40 modules on crime prevention and investigation were audited from a human rights perspective. This initiative is expected to mainstream human rights principles into police training and operations.

The training and mentoring efforts of the United Nations also strengthened the capacity of the Council of Constitutional Inquiry. In 2023, 15 experts from the Council of Constitutional Inquiry were trained on constitutional interpretation and economic, social and cultural rights, resulting in the resolution of 64 cases and a reduction in the case backlog.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process

The United Nations provided technical support to the UPR process in Ethiopia, ensuring the country's compliance with international human rights standards. During the reporting period, 19 members of the interministerial committee, including six women, finalized the UPR report of Ethiopia, which is now under validation for submission in November 2024. In collaboration with the EHRC, the United Nations also trained 50 CSO members, including 12 women, who submitted their own report to the UPR Secretariat. Additionally, the UNCT submitted its UPR compilation in May 2024, reflecting the assessment of the United Nations of the human rights situation in Ethiopia and contributing to the review of the country's human rights record.

Human rights commitments and public pledges

The advocacy and partnerships of the United Nations with key institutions, such as the Ministry of Justice and the Federal Supreme Court, were instrumental in the public pledges of the Government of Ethiopia during the Human Rights 75 Initiative in December 2023. These six pledges, which now form the government's key human rights priorities, include commitments to a comprehensive, human rights-compliant transitional justice process, accountability and the adoption of regional civil society laws that uphold freedom of association across the country.

Support for democratic processes

The United Nations supported elections in four regions – Somali, Afar, Central Ethiopia and Benishangul-Gumuz – in June 2024. These elections, which filled 9 seats in the House of People's Representatives and 26 seats in Regional Councils, were conducted in line with international electoral standards. A total of 380 candidates (76 women and 304 men) contested in the elections, with 1,046,780 voters registered, including 1,423 IDPs (694 women and 729 men). CSOs provided civic and voter education, and also acted as election observers. The elections were completed without security concerns, and stakeholders, including political party representatives and private candidates, expressed optimism about the performance of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia.



380 candidates (76 women and 304 men) contested in the elections



1,046,780 voters registered, including 1,423 IDPs (694 women and 729 men)



To promote women's political participation, the United Nations collaborated with the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia and the Network of Ethiopian Women's Association to empower 38 female political candidates in by-election constituencies across the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Central Ethiopia and Somali regions. These candidates received training on gender, elections and political processes, enhancing their capacity to participate effectively in the political arena.

Strengthening civil registration systems

The United Nations supported Ethiopia in implementing several measures to improve birth registration rates. By integrating birth registration with maternal and newborn health services, the United Nations facilitated a one-stop registration and certification service, deploying civil registrars to over 100 health facilities, primarily in Addis Ababa. This approach leveraged the extensive health infrastructure of Ethiopia, which includes a 75 per cent institutional delivery rate and over 80 per cent vaccination coverage, to improve the efficiency of birth registration.

The United Nations also supported the government in simplifying registration processes through amendments to the civil registration and vital statistics law. The revised draft proclamation, awaiting parliamentary approval, proposes measures such as reducing the number of declarants, waiving fees for the first copy of a birth certificate and transitioning from manual to digital systems. While awaiting the law's approval, some of these measures have already been implemented through executive decisions. Social and behavioural change communication interventions, supported by the United Nations, have played a critical role in creating demand for birth registration through multilingual campaigns, public service announcements and community mobilization sessions.

In conflict-affected regions such as Tigray, Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz, the United Nations revitalized civil registration systems by training 254 newly appointed civil registrars (144 women and 110 men) and providing essential office supplies. These efforts restored registration services in areas where they had been suspended due to conflict.

As a result of these efforts, the birth registration rate for children under 1 year increased from 27.8 per cent in 2022 to nearly 40 per cent (1,044,048 children) by June 2024, according to immigration and citizenship data. This progress represents a significant step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9, with implications for both continental and global progress.

Output 2.2: Capacities and mechanisms strengthened at the national and subnational level for enhanced protection of human rights, the rule of law, access to justice and protection for vulnerable populations

Strengthening national human rights institutions

The United Nations provided technical assistance to the EHRC to enhance its role as a key national protection mechanism. This support enabled the EHRC to effectively deliver its mandate, including public reporting on human rights issues. In July 2023, the United Nations trained 27 human rights defenders and Authority for Civil Society Organizations staff, including 5 women and 22 men, on digital security. This training equipped participants with the skills to protect civic space, advance freedom of expression, and improve dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers.



In July 2023, the United Nations trained **27 human rights defenders** and **Authority for Civil Society Organizations staff**, including **5 women and 22 men, on digital security**

Capacity-building for law enforcement and justice sector actors

To strengthen the criminal justice system and law enforcement, the United Nations conducted targeted capacity-building initiatives. During the reporting period, 145 law enforcement personnel, including 35 women and 110 men, were trained on human rights and law enforcement. Additionally, 51 criminal justice professionals, including 27 women and 24 men, received training on SGBV, the Nelson Mandela Rules on prison management and HIV/AIDS. These efforts enhanced the capacity of justice sector actors to uphold human rights and provide gender-sensitive services.



During the reporting period,
145 law enforcement personnel, including 35 women and 110 men, were **trained on human rights and law enforcement**

Promoting disability rights in higher education

The United Nations supported Addis Ababa University's College of Education and Behavioral Studies in developing the first-ever manual on disability and human rights in Ethiopia. This manual, designed for university teaching, will be rolled out across all universities in Ethiopia, equipping students with knowledge on human rights and disability inclusion.

Policy and legal reforms

The United Nations provided targeted support to key institutional actors in the Ethiopian criminal justice system, focusing on crime prevention, corruption, economic crimes and SGBV. As part of this effort, the Ministry of Justice developed a draft proclamation on legal aid services provision with the support of the United Nations. In addition to policy support, the United Nations assisted shelters in the Addis Ababa, Amhara,

Sidama and Oromia regions, as well as legal aid centres in the Afar and Somali regions, to provide free legal aid services. During the reporting period, 416 women and girls accessed legal aid services, which included legal counselling, referrals and court representation.

Improving justice sector coordination

To enhance coordination across the justice sector, the United Nations hosted platforms such as the Federal and Regional Prison Commissioners Annual Consultation and the Federal and Regional Prosecutors Annual Consultation. These platforms facilitated discussions on key issues, reviewed performance reports, and informed the development of guidelines to address common challenges.

Regional justice reforms

In Oromia, the regional bureaux of administration and security, Attorney General and Supreme Court implemented major reforms to improve justice services. These reforms included the development of a gender policy for the court system, the revision of sentencing guidelines to improve uniformity and support for customary courts to strengthen local conflict resolution mechanisms. Additionally, community-based peace committees, traditional institutions and women peacebuilders received training on peacebuilding and reconciliation, further contributing to the delivery of just, human rights-oriented and gender-sensitive services.

Output 2.3: Peace architecture and related instruments strengthened to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict and promote peace, reconciliation and social cohesion at the national and local levels

Strengthening national peace architecture

The United Nations supported the development of a gender- and vulnerability-responsive national peace architecture in Ethiopia. Through humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus programming, the United Nations advanced the WPS agenda by training 50 experts from the Ministry of Peace and regional administration and security bureaux on the relevance of the WPS agenda and national action plan development. The United Nations also supported the establishment of a Steering Committee for the National Action Plan

on WPS, composed of high-level officials from key ministries, including the MoWSA, the Ministry of Peace and the Ministry of Defense.

National dialogue process

The United Nations provided technical and logistical support to the Ethiopian NDC to strengthen its capacity for inclusive dialogue. This included support for the nationwide participant selection process, which engaged 105,370 community members, 30 per cent of whom were women, across 11 regions and 2 administrative cities. A total of 8,031 collaborators, including 878 women and 7,153 men, were trained to facilitate the dialogue process. To further enhance the capacity of the Ethiopian NDC, the United Nations organized experience-sharing visits to Latin America and Europe. These efforts have improved public awareness, engagement and ownership of the national dialogue process, which aims to build consensus on contentious national issues and strengthen governance structures.



8,031 collaborators, including 878 women and 7,153 men, were trained to facilitate the dialogue process.

Community-level peacebuilding

At the community level, the United Nations supported the establishment of 10 Women Peace Ambassador Committees and 10 Peace Committees at the woreda level in the Oromia and Somali regions. These committees, composed of influential women leaders, facilitated community dialogues, workshops and cultural exchange programmes to promote peace and social cohesion. Their efforts included organizing social cohesion projects, such as educational initiatives, economic empowerment programmes and health awareness campaigns. These activities not only reduced tensions, but also empowered women and youth to take active roles in peacebuilding and community development.

Community dialogue platforms

The United Nations also established community dialogue platforms in conflict-affected areas to bring together community leaders, women and youth groups, and religious institutions to resolve conflicts. Similarly, peace clubs were established in and out of schools to engage youth in promoting a culture of peace. Advocacy efforts by the United Nations improved respect for due process, particularly for detainees linked to the Tigray conflict. For example, in Wukro, 10 prisoners had their sentences reduced from 15 years to 3 years.

Output 2.4: Civil society and the media empowered to exercise their rights and enjoy increased participation in political, economic and civic space

Empowering victims and survivors

The United Nations provided technical support to eight associations of victims and survivors of past human rights violations from the Amhara, Somali and Tigray regions. This support facilitated meaningful discussions on victims' roles in implementing the Transitional Justice Policy and drew lessons from the successful efforts of Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and the Gambia to strengthen victim participation in transitional justice processes.

Capacity-building for media professionals

In December 2023, the United Nations hosted a training programme in Addis Ababa for 20 media professionals from national and private outlets. The training focused on improving their ability to report on gender equality and migration with sensitivity and accuracy, promoting responsible journalism. The United Nations also supported the Women Can Do It initiative, a local women-led CSO, to empower 72 media professionals, including 33 women and 39 men, to challenge gender norms, foster women's leadership and portray women positively in media content.

Advancing the Rights of Women with Disabilities

The United Nations supported the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association to strengthen its systems and expertise in advocating for the equal rights and inclusion of women with disabilities in leadership and decision-making processes. This initiative aimed to ensure that women with disabilities are represented in political, economic, and civic spaces.

Strengthening civil society and media institutions

The United Nations also provided support to CSOs and media coordinating bodies, including the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council and the Ethiopian Media Council. This support enhanced their capacity to promote human rights, foster citizens' engagement, and advocate for ethics and integrity in public discourse. By strengthening these institutions, the United Nations contributed to the creation of a more inclusive and participatory civic space in Ethiopia.



Photo: The United Nations with support from the European Union is rehabilitating schools and getting children in Tigray back to the classroom.

Source: UNICEF, 2024.



Photo: 16-year-old Mihret understands the impacts of underage marriage. She actively participates in group discussions in her community to stand against the practice and understand the perils of marrying too young. Source: UNICEF, 2023.



Outcome III: Prosperity

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



Photo: Debo is 20 years old, married with one child. She fled to Dubuluk, Ethiopia, due to drought. Having access to water at the United Nations site for internally displaced persons means she no longer has to beg for the precious resource. Source: IOM, 2023.



Outcome III: Prosperity

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

The approach of the United Nations to this outcome focuses on addressing the root causes of the slow economic transformation of Ethiopia. By tackling challenges such as high unemployment, underemployment, and the lack of vibrant micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the United Nations aims to foster inclusive and sustainable growth. This includes enhancing productivity, strengthening market integration, improving social protection systems and mobilizing domestic resources. The interventions

under this outcome have delivered significant results, including the creation of thousands of decent jobs, the empowerment of women and youth, the strengthening of MSMEs, and the promotion of sustainable and green economic practices.

The following sections outline the progress made under each output, showcasing the transformative impact of these initiatives.

Key achievements include:



Invested **\$3.7 million** in MSME development, generating nearly 20,000 job opportunities across multiple sectors and fostering economic growth.



Supported **over 1.3 million households** with agricultural inputs and livestock interventions, boosting productivity and food security.

Launched a **\$179 million** Participatory Agriculture and Climate Programme to **promote sustainable agricultural practices and climate resilience**.



Reached **2.5 million** households through diverse social protection mechanisms, enhancing resilience and improving livelihoods.





Photo: Installation of a modern slaughtering machine inside a beneficiary abattoir, which aims to maintain the quality of meat and skin to improve the leather value chain.

Source: UNIDO, 2024.

Output 3.1: Policies, regulations and institutions strengthened to create decent jobs and promote equal access to finance for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to invest in their productivity and competitiveness

The United Nations has made significant investments in demand-driven technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes and other initiatives to enhance employability and job prospects, particularly in the agroprocessing sector. These efforts have been instrumental in creating opportunities for young graduates, returned migrants and vulnerable groups, while also strengthening value chains and promoting sustainable livelihoods across Ethiopia.

Policy and institutional support

The United Nations provided normative support to improve the policy environment for job creation. This included supporting the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in reviewing the comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and conducting a gap analysis on labour migration in Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Skills. The findings will inform the development of a sectoral policy on labour migration.

A pilot programme for the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals was implemented in partnership with the Ethiopian Diaspora Service and three

regional universities. Additionally, the United Nations collaborated with ProAgro Ethiopia and GIZ to develop a national skills policy framework to align workforce skills with the needs of the agribusiness sector. The review and update of the Education and Training Policy is also under way with the Ministry of Labor and Skills.

In the industrial sector, the United Nations supported the revision of the manufacturing sector strategy, introducing new incentives to foster a conducive environment for industrial development. This included advancing eco-friendly agrifood parks within integrated agro-industrial parks (IAIPs) and promoting a circular economy through the utilization of organic by-products and waste streams.

The United Nations also supported the development of agro-commodity procurement zones to supply raw materials to agroprocessing firms within a 100-kilometre radius of the IAIPs. Under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, funded by the Technical Cooperation Project, the United Nations provided institutional support to overcome agricultural bottlenecks and promote inclusive agricultural transformation.

Improving labour market governance and financial inclusion

The United Nations, through the Better Regional Migration Management programme funded by the United Kingdom, strengthened the Ethiopian Labor Market Information System. Information technology

equipment was procured to enable data collection at the regional level, which feeds into the Labor Market Information System, making it accessible to local authorities. This digitization effort has replaced manual procedures, improving efficiency and service delivery for potential migrants, returnees and youth.

In partnership with Siinqee Bank, the United Nations facilitated cash transfers of \$150 (payable in local currency) to 660 returned migrants who completed the International Labour Organization skills development programme delivered by the Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE). The partnership also extended access to microfinancing for potential and returned migrants, promoting formal employment and poverty reduction. The second component of this partnership focuses on improving access to loans for these groups.

Enhancing employability and skills development through technical and vocational education and training

The United Nations designed a specialized programme to support young graduates from agriculture-related training centres in transitioning from school to the workforce. This initiative provided 200 graduates (90 women and 110 men) with four months of on-the-job training in industries operating in the poultry value chain, including hatching, breeding, rearing and supply chain businesses. The programme was implemented in collaboration with agriculture university colleges in Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar and Hawassa, as well as four medium-sized enterprises: Elfora Agro Industries, Alema Farms, EthioChicken, and the Ethiopian Poultry Producers and Processors Association. The results have been promising, with over 56 per cent of the graduates securing wage jobs in the sector, while ProAgro is supporting 55 graduates to establish self-employment ventures. A skills tracking tool has been introduced to monitor trainee progress and gather feedback.

The United Nations also conducted a market system assessment in the South Ethiopia and Oromia regions using the inclusive market systems approach. This assessment identified high-potential sectors for inclusive growth and employment, such as hospitality, construction materials, poultry, livestock fattening, tomato production, and crops such as false banana, avocado and chilli pepper. Based on these findings, the United Nations piloted a poultry sector scheme to address production constraints and launched an innovative business plan competition to strengthen

market linkages as well as create opportunities for returnees and other market actors.

The United Nations enhanced the capacity of four TVET institutions – Woizero Siheen Polytechnic College (Amhara), Worabe University (Central Ethiopia), Chercher Polytechnic College and Gelemso TVET College (Oromia) – by equipping them with the necessary materials to provide practical training in domestic work, food processing, laundry and hairdressing. These institutions are part of a broader initiative targeting potential and returned migrants, with over 16,488 individuals (16,007 women and 481 men) trained in hotel and tourism, hairdressing and domestic work sectors as of March 2024. This represents the second phase of support, building on similar investments made in four other colleges during the first phase.

Advancing value chains and promoting livelihoods

Honey value chain development: The United Nations worked closely with three Ethiopian honey processors/exporters, including one female-led processor, to obtain Food Safety System Certification (FSSC 22000). This certification ensures compliance with European Union and Norwegian market standards, enabling Ethiopia to continue exporting honey products to these markets in 2024.

The United Nations also developed a training manual for the harvest and post-harvest stages of the honey value chain, targeting master trainers from the Ethiopian Apiculture Development Association, cooperatives and exporters. Seventy-five lead beekeepers (20 women and 55 men) were trained, and 85 essential beekeeping accessories and 4,000 food-grade honey bags were distributed. These tools have mitigated contamination risks, improved product quality and increased the income potential for beekeepers, benefiting households in Oromia.



75 lead beekeepers
were trained



4,000 food-grade honey
bags were distributed



Photo: Alemayehu Toga (left) serves as the Chairman of the Tailo Cooperatives Association in the Mirab Abaya area. They are involved in the cultivation of bananas, growing seedlings, and the production and sale of honey.

Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ethiopia, 2024.

Moringa value chain development: The United Nations supported the moringa value chain development in South Ethiopia, engaging 312 individuals (285 women and 27 men) in the production and processing of moringa products. The Institute of Ethiopian Standards developed two moringa products, while the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration finalized the product registration regulatory framework. Training of trainers sessions on moringa processing techniques and food safety management were cascaded to 800 women beneficiaries, further strengthening their capacity.

Leather and livestock value chains: In the leather industry, the United Nations facilitated the participation of three local enterprises – Venus Shoe, Meron Leather Goods and Kabana Leather Goods – at an international trade fair, which attracted 286 exhibitors from 28 countries and 5,150 trade visitors from 58 countries.

In the livestock value chain, the United Nations implemented training packages on food safety, quality management, and occupational health and safety, training 78 individuals (14 women and 64 men) from public and private institutions. The United Nations also supported the revision of the Meat Inspection Proclamation and Regulation in collaboration with the MoA. Formal market linkages between livestock producers and export abattoirs were established, with pilot systems implemented in the Borena and Bale zones, linking 10 potential traders.

These value chain interventions, alongside the broader efforts in policy, governance and skills development, have collectively driven the progress of Ethiopia towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, the comprehensive interventions of the United Nations in TVET, labour market governance and value chain development have significantly contributed to job creation, skills development and economic transformation in Ethiopia. By addressing systemic challenges and fostering inclusive growth, these initiatives have empowered individuals – particularly women and youth – strengthened institutions and promoted sustainable livelihoods across the country.

Output 3.2: Improved access to decent jobs, employment and livelihood opportunities in formal and informal sectors, particularly for youth and women

The United Nations has implemented a range of initiatives to improve access to decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods, with a strong focus on youth, women and vulnerable groups. These efforts span capacity-building, enterprise development, financial inclusion and gender equality, contributing to economic empowerment and resilience across Ethiopia.

Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises Programme

Since 2018, the United Nations has been implementing the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Programme, which has seen significant growth over the years. The number of participating enterprises increased from 4 in 2019 to 183 in 2023, reflecting consistent demand for SCORE services, particularly among small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). During the reporting period, the programme delivered training to 2,735 enterprise workers and managers, 39 per cent of whom were women, and contributed to the creation of over 870 jobs, 57 per cent of which were filled by women.

The training and in-factory consultations led to a 100 per cent increase in workers' participation in productivity improvement in the factories, while work-related accidents and injuries were reduced in more than 90 per cent of enterprises. Best practices in improving worker facilities, such as workstations, storage, toilets and ergonomic practices, were observed in 30 per cent of enterprises. Wage increases were reported in 26 per cent of enterprises.

The SCORE Programme has also influenced national institutions. The Kaizen Excellence Center (KEC), under the Federal Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia, successfully integrated SCORE training into its SME support services. KEC established an internal SCORE team and deployed 40 staff members across various sectors to deliver SCORE and SCORE-inspired training. In 2023, KEC generated approximately \$75,000 from both United Nations and non-United Nations sources for delivering SCORE training, demonstrating the sustainability of the initiative.



Photo: Teshome Daniel received a research commercialization grant from the United Nations, which enabled him to transform his research on utilizing used coffee grounds (spent coffee) into making bread. This allowed him to open a bakery in Akaki Kaliti.
Source: UNDP Ethiopia, 2024.

Capacity-building for women and youth entrepreneurs

The United Nations collaborated with the Ministry of Industry to deliver demand-driven capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening entrepreneurship and digitization skills among women and youth microentrepreneurs. From January to June 2024, these activities benefited 32 microenterprise support officers and 14 micro and small entrepreneurs from nine regions. The training focused on digitizing microenterprises using e-commerce models and data-driven solutions. Most participants expressed a willingness to adopt and share the knowledge gained within their communities, enhancing the resilience of MSMEs and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Boosting job quality and agribusiness development

The United Nations has played a significant role in improving job quality and creating employment opportunities in the agribusiness sector. In the Sidama region, 44 women-owned businesses in the

poultry sector and 12 women entrepreneurs in the food processing sector formed business networks for collective engagement. During the reporting period, the city administration provided land for 60 urban agribusiness set-ups, including livestock, dairy production and poultry, as well as six market storage facilities for women from spice producers' networks.

In 2023/2024, 19 food processing SMEs benefited from United Nations interventions aimed at improving working conditions for higher productivity. A peer learning platform was organized, and 70 per cent of participants reported business expansion as a result of the intervention, which led to increased workforce recruitment. Other enterprises reported their ability to engage more in downstream quality assurance of their input supplies by sourcing expert staff.

To support agribusiness start-ups, the United Nations introduced longer-term revolving loan schemes to make borrowing more affordable and accessible. The social financing model also includes minimum insurance to mitigate environmental risks. Over 1,000 start-ups applied to partnering banks and close mentorship was provided through a partnership with Digital Opportunity Trust.



Photo: Enat Wondimeneh, a mother of two and a beneficiary of a daycare centre supported by the United Nations.
Source: ILO, 2024.

Promoting decent work and gender equality in integrated agro-industrial parks

The United Nations has also advanced workplace safety and gender equality in IAIPs through awareness-raising on GBV and tripartite dialogues with management, workers and government bodies. Close to EUR 3.5 million was invested to develop SMEs, enhance business ecosystems and promote sustainable investments in selected economic clusters. By the end of 2023, these efforts had created sustainable and decent employment opportunities for 1,044 individuals, 42 per cent of whom were women and 46 per cent youth, within 138 newly established MSMEs in the agrifood and allied sectors across the Amhara, Oromia, and Sidama regions.

Capacity-building interventions also benefited 525 individuals, 46 per cent of whom were women, by

increasing their income, enhancing productivity, improving product quality and expanding market access. In addition, the United Nations mobilized ETB 1.9 million for 23 MSMEs from microfinance institutions and ETB 114 million for two unions, one primary cooperative, one model farmer and six agroprocessing companies under the pilot commodity collateralized financing scheme.

Empowering women and supporting migrants

The United Nations collaborated with WISE and the MoWSA to support economically marginalized women and girls, including those in conflict-affected areas. Among 1,067 saving and credit cooperative members, 95 per cent started saving regularly and 70 per cent launched small-scale businesses. Capital levels increased, ranging from ETB 6,000 to ETB 200,000.

Comprehensive reintegration support was also provided to 1,591 potential and returned migrants, 92 per cent of whom were women, in Addis Ababa and Oromia. The support included training modules on Generate Your Business Idea, Start Your Business, financial education and life skills. Participants were empowered to articulate business concepts and develop business plans. A business plan competition was organized and 40 promising plans received financial awards. As a result, 434 trainees in Addis Ababa and 197 in Asella started their own businesses or accessed wage employment.



434 trainees in Addis Ababa and **197** in Asella started their **own businesses** or accessed wage employment

Labour market assessments and specialized training

The United Nations interventions are informed by labour market assessments, including national assessments conducted in 2020 and 2023 to map destination countries for labour migration as well as a 2022 market system assessment in South Ethiopia, Oromia and Addis Ababa using the inclusive market systems approach.

The United Nations also supported the Misale Driver Training Academy, a public–private partnership for specialized skill development for commercial vehicle drivers. Over 13,652 drivers have been trained and gained employment opportunities, with the academy achieving financial sustainability.



Over 13,652 drivers have been trained and gained employment opportunities

Community empowerment and gender equality

The United Nations collaborated with WISE to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by building the capacity of government partners, women, girls and community members. During the reporting period, 1,858 community members and women were trained to support self-employment opportunities. A survey

conducted to assess the impact of community outreach showed significant changes in family dynamics, with 110 out of 130 households reporting progress in sharing workloads among family members as a result of life skills training.

A comprehensive SOP for the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV was developed, along with referral pathways, codes of conduct, gender policies and guidelines. These SOPs enhance GBV and workplace sexual harassment prevention and response within agroprocessing companies, IAIPs and Rural Transformation Centers. They are now being adapted to the specific work areas and contextual realities of the respective parties.

Together with a vast network of partners, including governmental authorities and NGOs, the United Nations assists migrants in making informed decisions on their return and reintegration into their communities. Socioeconomic support is provided at both the individual and community levels to ensure that migrants have the best chance of successful reintegration. In 2023, 575 individuals received reintegration assistance, either individually or through community-led projects.

In conclusion, the comprehensive United Nations interventions have significantly improved access to decent jobs, employment and livelihood opportunities in Ethiopia. By focusing on gender equality, youth empowerment and sustainable enterprise development, these programmes have created tangible impacts, including job creation, enhanced productivity and improved resilience for vulnerable groups. Through partnerships, capacity-building and innovative financing models, the United Nations continues to foster inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihoods across the country.

Output 3.3: Access to innovation, new technology and finance is increased, fostering an inclusive and diversified green economy

The United Nations has implemented a range of initiatives to enhance access to innovation, technology and finance, with a focus on fostering an inclusive and diversified green economy. These efforts target vulnerable groups, including refugees, host communities, women and smallholder farmers, while promoting environmental sustainability, digital inclusion and economic empowerment.



Photo: Getachew Mamo, a street vendor in Addis Ababa, currently sells used clothes by carrying them around the city. He hopes to switch to using Gari Ergonomic Street Carts, which would eliminate the burden of carrying his products.

Source: UNDP Ethiopia, 2024.

Digital innovation and inclusion

To enhance infrastructure, connectivity and digital skills for refugees and host communities, the United Nations, through the PROSPECTS project, partnered with the Somali Regional State Bureau of Innovation and Technology to establish a Digital Innovation Hub. This hub serves as a centre for connectivity, skill development and co-working, promoting digital skills and employment opportunities in the digital economy. In addition, the United Nations provided core skills training critical for wage and self-employment to TVET and university lecturers. During the reporting period, 36 TVET and university teachers (11 women and 25 men) participated in this training.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology, with support from the United Nations, is conducting a study on the digital gender divide to develop a digital inclusion strategy. This strategy aims to ensure the inclusion of refugees as well as promote digital skills and employment opportunities for marginalized groups.

Environmental sustainability for small- and medium-sized enterprises

Environmental sustainability remains a key focus for SMEs. Through the Global Programme on Skills and Lifelong Learning, the United Nations provided training on environmental sustainability to women-led SMEs in collaboration with the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association and regional women entrepreneurs' associations in Hawassa. In 2023/2024, 99 participants (93 women and 6 men) were trained on environmental sustainability practices, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to adopt environmentally friendly business practices.



99 participants
(93 women and 6 men) were
trained on environmental
sustainability practices

Access to finance for displacement-affected communities

The United Nations has enhanced the capacity of financial institutions to facilitate access to finance for displacement-affected communities. To support this, village economic and social groups were established in the Somali and Oromia regions, creating local-level saving and credit opportunities. These groups operate group businesses, share experiences, access local loans and receive business coaching. So far, 59 groups have been established in four woredas in Oromia and 55 groups in four woredas in the Somali region, fostering financial inclusion and economic empowerment at the community level.

Innovative technologies for women in agriculture and agribusiness

The United Nations partnered with Traide Foundation, StudioWhy and Iceaddis to support women in agriculture and agribusiness through innovative technologies. These efforts focused on areas such as climate and insurance awareness for Ethiopian farmers, commodity traceability and digital infrastructure for e-commerce of agricultural commodities. As part of this initiative, 24 young women professionals with expertise and strong interest in agriculture, digital technology, business and women's empowerment developed their skills in these areas.

In April 2024, a Women in Tech Hackathon was organized in collaboration with Traide Foundation, Iceaddis, StudioWhy and CARE Ethiopia. This event provided a platform for women to showcase their innovative ideas and solutions, further promoting women's participation in technology and agribusiness.

Institutional capacity-building in integrated agro-industrial parks

The support of the United Nations in improving institutional capacities around IAIPs has led to significant advancements in food safety, quality and traceability. A total of 24 participants (3 women and 21 men) from Agricultural Transformation Agency, Oromia Bureau of Agriculture, Livestock Resources and Development, Sidama Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Oromia Industrial Parks Development Corporation, and Yirgalem IAIP were trained in good agricultural practices and aflatoxin control management. These trainings have enabled the implementation of proactive measures across the value chain, enhancing food security and safety while establishing a robust foundation for improved traceability.

Advancing the coffee sector

The United Nations has made significant contributions to the coffee sector in Ethiopia, supporting smallholder farmers and promoting sustainable coffee production. A draft operational manual for the management of the credit line facility was developed, incorporating Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development impact standards for financing sustainable development. During the reporting period, 111 students (43 women and 68 men) graduated from the Coffee Training Center, where they gained knowledge and skills in cupping, roasting and barista training. The Coffee Training Center also serves as an experience-sharing platform for other African countries, further enhancing its impact.

To boost coffee productivity and quality, the United Nations recruited, trained and deployed 38 specialized coffee development agents across 19 coffee-based project woredas, covering 95 kebeles. High-yielding coffee seeds and farming equipment were distributed to 70,000 farmers, enabling them to augment their production and meet national coffee production targets.



High-yielding coffee seeds and farming equipment were distributed to 70,000 farmers

The United Nations also supported the creation of a National Coffee Platform, which brings together government, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and the private sector to coordinate efforts toward sustainable coffee production. This platform focuses on geolocation, resource mobilization, and collaborative action among key actors, with a particular emphasis on supporting women in coffee value chains. Additionally, the United Nations supported Ethiopia's compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which accounts for 30 percent of Ethiopian coffee exports.

Promoting a circular economy in the textile and garment sector

The United Nations has promoted a circular economy in the textile and garment sector by supporting the sustainable management of chemicals and waste. These efforts aim to reduce environmental impacts and foster sustainable practices within the industry.

Post-harvest loss reduction technologies

The United Nations assisted the Government of Ethiopia in promoting two post-harvest loss reduction technologies – metal silos and hermetic bags – in four regions: Amhara, Oromia, South Ethiopia and Tigray. These technologies are designed to reduce post-harvest losses, improve food security and enhance the efficiency of agricultural value chains.

In conclusion, the United Nations interventions under Output 3.3 have significantly enhanced access to innovation, technology and finance, fostering an inclusive and diversified green economy in Ethiopia. By promoting digital inclusion, environmental sustainability and financial access, these initiatives have empowered vulnerable groups, including women, refugees and smallholder farmers, while strengthening institutional capacities and advancing key sectors such as coffee, textiles and agribusiness. Through partnerships, capacity-building and innovative solutions, the United Nations continues to drive sustainable development and economic transformation across the country.

Output 3.4: Social protection programmes and systems strengthened to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people

The United Nations has implemented a range of initiatives to strengthen the social protection systems in Ethiopia, ensuring they are more inclusive, shock-responsive and capable of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. These efforts have focused on cash transfer programmes, disability inclusion, livelihood restoration and counter-trafficking measures.

Shock-responsive social protection and cash plus programmes

The United Nations enhanced the social protection system to provide shock-responsive support through the cash plus programmes and case management. Working with eight regional bureaux, the United Nations supported 62,262 households by establishing grievance mechanisms and ensuring programme integrity through training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) as well as post-distribution monitoring. Over 61,200 beneficiaries accessed social services in protection, nutrition, health and education.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities

In Oromia, over 1,900 shock-responsive beneficiaries were linked to financial inclusion interventions, while 1,722 households with members with disabilities received supplementary financial aid. These efforts ensured that vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities, were better equipped to cope with economic and social challenges.



1,722 households with members with disabilities received supplementary financial aid

In collaboration with Cheshire Ethiopia and the MoWSA, the United Nations improved the inclusion of 300 children with disabilities. This was achieved through identification, needs assessment, rehabilitation and the delivery of customized assistive devices. Caretakers and parents were trained in the use and maintenance of these devices, as well as child physiotherapy techniques, ensuring long-term benefits for children with disabilities. This intervention fostered a more inclusive barrier-free environment, enabling the successful reintegration of children with disabilities into schools and their communities.

Support for the Productive Safety Net Programme

The United Nations continued to support the rural Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the Urban Productive Safety Net and Jobs Project as well as shock-responsive cash transfers, collectively reaching over 2.59 million households and covering over 21 million children in 2023. While the coverage of community-based health insurance and the Urban Productive Safety Net and Jobs Project expanded, the rural PSNP maintained its caseload. However, the sector faced challenges due to lower-than-expected development financing and a tight fiscal environment, which may lead to reductions in beneficiaries and payment durations in 2024.

In the Tigray region, the United Nations supported the PSNP to assist the most vulnerable while injecting \$17.5 million into the local economy through the procurement of 35,000 megatons of wheat from the Ethiopian Trading Business Corporation. A capacity gap assessment was completed, and a capacity-strengthening plan and budget for the PSNP were developed. Eight capacity-strengthening trainings were conducted, covering topics such as the Environmental



Photo: Sosena Arage supports her family by preparing food on the 4-kilometre campus using Gari Ergonomic Street Carts. These carts were developed with a research commercialization grant from the United Nations, ensuring that research projects become practical solutions rather than staying on the shelves.

Source: UNDP Ethiopia, 2024.

and Social Management Framework, retargeting of PSNP clients and the Programme Implementation Manual. A total of 1,473 people (225 women and 1,248 men) received training at various levels, including regional, zonal and woreda officials.

as cereal seeds, pulse seeds, vegetable seeds and fertilizer. In 2023, 271,546 households (30 per cent women-headed) in the Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama and South Ethiopia regions benefited from these inputs, helping to restore livelihoods and improve food security.

Livelihood restoration and agricultural support

To restore livelihoods, the United Nations supported 4,477,190 people (895,438 households) through the provision of agricultural production inputs, animal feed, veterinary services and cash assistance. These interventions helped vulnerable households cope with overlapping shocks, including floods, droughts, armed conflict, economic challenges and food chain disruptions.

The United Nations also enhanced the capacity of rural institutions to provide services, delivering agricultural and veterinary equipment, training and extension services. By the end of 2023, 195,685 pastoral and agropastoral households in the Oromia, Afar, Somali and South Ethiopia regions benefited from livestock interventions, including vaccination, emergency treatment, feed production and restocking.

Crop production and productivity were supported through the distribution of agricultural inputs such

Support to improve social protection coverage

The United Nations also supported the Ethiopian Government in developing and implementing policies to enhance social protection coverage, including co-financing agreements for family planning commodities and the development of the Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning. These efforts have successfully motivated the government to increase domestic resource mobilization, in alignment with its Family Planning 2030 commitment.

Cash transfer activities

The United Nations implemented cash transfer activities to improve access to food and restore productive capacity. Through unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work activities, the United Nations assisted 115,859 households in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Somali, Afar and South Ethiopia, disbursing ETB 566,800,276 (\$10,551,950).

Counter-trafficking and migrant protection

The United Nations worked to strengthen the National Referral Mechanism for the protection of victims of trafficking and migrants in vulnerable situations. The National Referral Mechanism enhances coordination between government entities and nearly 200 institutions assisting migrants, ensuring effective resource use and accountability. This includes identifying vulnerable migrants, determining case types, managing cases, and providing protection and assistance services.

As part of its counter-trafficking programme, the United Nations supported the establishment of a free hotline in Addis Ababa to report potential trafficking cases. Additionally, 390 individuals, including victims of trafficking, received counselling, direct assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and referrals to specialized services. Furthermore, 218 individuals from implementing partners, the government, and service providers were trained on PSEA.



390
individuals

including victims of trafficking, received counselling, direct assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and referrals to specialized services.

218

individuals from implementing partners, the government, and service providers were trained on PSEA.

Output 3.5: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated into development plans and budget allocations at the national and subnational level, with adequate financing mobilized

The United Nations has been actively engaged in integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the development plans and budget allocations of Ethiopia. These efforts focus on public finance monitoring, policy advocacy and capacity-building to ensure adequate financing is mobilized for sustainable development.

Public finance monitoring and advocacy

The United Nations produced budget briefs in 2023, analysing national and subnational budget allocations and conducting sectoral analyses for education and health. These briefs were used for advocacy to influence programmes and policies. Despite nominal increases in the national budget for education (11 per cent) and health (16.5 per cent) between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, inflation-adjusted figures revealed real-value declines of 16 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. Analysis of the 2023/2024 federal budget showed increases in urban and rural food security as well as safety net budgets by 16 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively.

In the Amhara region, education was prioritized, accounting for 31 per cent of regional expenditure (ETB 18.9 billion), followed by health at 15 per cent (ETB 9 billion) and water, mining and energy at 3 per cent (ETB 1.6 billion) in 2020/2021. Compared with the previous year, education and health expenditures increased by 44 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively, while water, mining and energy saw an 8 per cent decline. These findings are being used to inform policy advocacy and improve public investment for children.

Fiscal performance assessment in Amhara

At the request of the Amhara regional government, the United Nations conducted an assessment of the region's fiscal performance, estimating potential tax revenue and providing growth rates for various revenue sources. Despite timely tax filings, the region faces challenges in tax administration, including issues with the integrity of the taxpayer base, timely payments, accurate reporting and revenue management. Barriers such as lack of tax awareness, ineffective communication, infrastructure constraints and the persistence of the informal economy exacerbate these challenges.

The United Nations is working with the regional government to develop and implement a plan to enhance the institutional capacity of the Revenue Bureau, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning and Development. Proposed interventions include legal reforms, automation, data management and analysis skill development, tax education reform and integrated planning.

Child poverty analysis

The United Nations initiated a child poverty analysis in collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute and the American Institutes for Research. This initiative aims to build the capacity of the Policy Studies Institute for poverty analysis. A workshop was conducted to determine the indicators and dimensions for the analysis, and nationally representative quantitative and qualitative data-collection took place during the reporting period.

Support for the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey

In preparation for the fifth round of the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey, scheduled for 2025, the United Nations is providing support in translating survey questionnaires into Amharic, standardizing survey instruments and updating enumeration area maps.



Photo: Children gather and play outside Kebbele Primary School in Sofi Woreda, Harari Region where a newly installed solar photovoltaic system enhances educational opportunities for the school and surrounding communities.

Source: UNDP Ethiopia, 2024.



Outcome IV: Environmental Protection and Climate Change

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

Photo: Abdulahi Hassen Derro, 45, is a Somali refugee busy planting onions at his farmland in the Somali region's Amino Irrigation scheme. This 5km concrete canal and solar-powered irrigation system aims to provide sustainable irrigation for small holder farmers in the region.
Source: WFP, 2024.



Outcome IV: Environmental Protection and Climate Change

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

The United Nations has been working to support Ethiopia in building a society that is resilient to environmental risks and climate change while advancing sustainable development. This outcome focuses on addressing critical challenges such as limited disaster risk management capacities, environmental degradation driven by demographic pressures and gaps in implementing green economy policies. By strengthening governance, institutional

capacities and community resilience, the United Nations aims to support Ethiopia in transitioning to a green economy, mitigating environmental risks and adapting to climate change.

These achievements demonstrate the commitment of the United Nations to supporting Ethiopia in addressing environmental challenges while promoting sustainable development and resilience.

Key achievements under this outcome include:



Development of the second-generation National Health Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (2024–2028) of Ethiopia, with a **\$19 million budget** to enhance a climate-resilient health system.

Mobilization of climate finance and support for the implementation of the Great Green Wall initiative, contributing to **land restoration and biodiversity conservation.**



Operationalization of the multi-hazard impact-based early warning and early action system (2023–2030) of Ethiopia, making Ethiopia the **first African country** to establish a government-owned national disaster damage and loss database.

Support for sustainable urban development in 42 cities, including improved waste management practices and climate-resilient urban planning.



Distribution of over **1.3 million** clean energy technologies, benefiting more than **4 million people,** and the installation of solar-powered irrigation systems to boost agricultural productivity.



Photo: Yeshaw Tamrat skilfully threshes his wheat harvest in Mekdela Woreda of the Amhara region of Ethiopia, embodying the essence of resilience and prosperity. This year's bounty is a testament to the United Nations and its partners' Rural Resilience initiative that aims to scale up an integrated risk management framework designed to support farmers to withstand the impacts of climate change while strengthening their food and income security.

Source: WFP, 2024.

Output 4.1: The climate and disaster risk management capacity of the Government of Ethiopia at the national and subnational levels is strengthened to build resilience

The United Nations has provided extensive support to the Government of Ethiopia to strengthen its climate and disaster risk management capacity at both national and subnational levels. These efforts have focused on advancing policies, institutional development, and practical interventions to build resilience against climate risks and disasters. Below is a detailed account of the achievements under this output.

Advancing climate-resilient policies and strategies

The United Nations has been instrumental in supporting the Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy of Ethiopia, which aims to promote low-carbon and green growth. This included the development of the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Partnership

Plan (2023–2025) of Ethiopia for the energy sector, with a focus on enhancing access to clean cooking energy solutions. The United Nations also facilitated the design of new national policies and strategies, such as the Green Legacy Initiative and degraded land restoration initiatives, which have improved climate finance mobilization and strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and other climate-resilient green economy institutions. These efforts have also enhanced national and international partnerships and coordination for climate change actions, enabling sector institutions to implement effective environmental and social mitigation measures.

To address the global interest in carbon markets, the United Nations organized a high-level dialogue on carbon markets and development at the Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. This event raised awareness among African leaders, including Ethiopia, about the potential of carbon markets to drive investment, support communities and advance global commitments such as the SDGs, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Paris Agreement.

Enhancing disaster risk management systems

The United Nations has played a critical role in supporting the commitment of Ethiopia to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) by mainstreaming disaster risk management across key development sectors. A significant milestone was the operationalization of the multi-hazard impact-based early warning and early action system (2023–2030) of Ethiopia, in line with the call of the United Nations Secretary-General to provide early warning coverage for all by 2027. Ethiopia became the first African country to establish a government-owned national disaster damage and loss database, which represents a major step forward in disaster risk management.

The United Nations also launched the Early Warning for All initiative in Ethiopia, which aims to reduce vulnerability and increase community resilience to hazards. This initiative complements the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, which strengthens the capacity of Ethiopia to provide effective early warning systems and climate services. In collaboration with the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, the United Nations supported access to numerical weather prediction products and satellite images, enabling accurate weather and climate forecasting. Four experts from the Norwegian Capacity Operated by the Norwegian Refugee Council were deployed to enhance the institute's capacity, including the development of a content management system for transmitting weather and climate information.

The United Nations also assisted in identifying strategic priorities for implementing the multi-hazard impact-based early warning and early action system road map, including improving capacity for risk information management, establishing multi-hazard early warning and action systems linked to regional and continental situation rooms, and standardizing tools and methodologies for Woreda Disaster Risk Profiling.

Strengthening early warning systems and climate resilience

The United Nations has supported Ethiopia in developing and implementing innovative early warning systems to address climate risks. A research consortium was established to develop early warning tools powered by artificial intelligence, while the Next Generation Agricultural Stress Index System was implemented to provide actionable drought-related early warning information for the agriculture sector. The United Nations also supported the adoption of a standardized rapid assessment framework for climate

vulnerability and resilience, which has enhanced the climate resilience of biosphere reserve communities. Additionally, the United Nations supported the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission in conducting national seasonal assessments (Belg/Meher), which inform the country's Humanitarian Response Plan.

Supporting climate-resilient health systems

In collaboration with the MoH, the United Nations supported the development and endorsement of the second-generation National Health Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (2024–2028) of Ethiopia, with a \$19 million budget. This plan aims to enhance the implementation of a climate-resilient health system. The United Nations also strengthened the capacity of health experts at 14 sentinel sites to implement the climate-sensitive diseases early warning, alert and response system (EWARS+ model). Over 75 experts were trained, including 40 per cent women, and equipment such as computers and servers was provided to improve real-time data management. The EWARS+ model has facilitated better prediction of climate-induced disease outbreaks, including malaria, enabling timely responses and reducing risks.



Over 75 experts were trained, including 40 per cent women and equipment such as computers and servers was provided to improve real-time data management.

Building resilience in agriculture and livelihoods

The United Nations has supported smallholder farmers in accessing climate risk insurance to protect against weather-related losses and enhance resilience. The previous weather index microinsurance design was transitioned to a meso-level area yield index insurance, which was integrated with the government input voucher scheme. This initiative provided insurance coverage for 122,152 smallholder farmers, benefiting 610,760 people in the Amhara region, with a total insured value of \$16.5 million for wheat and teff crops. During the Meher 2023 cropping season, an insurance payout of \$693,972 was disbursed to 53,869 households affected by disease and pests. In total, 64,582 households were insured, benefiting 322,910 people, protecting crops and inputs valued at \$11.3 million.

Addressing desert locust control

The United Nations provided technical, material and financial support to the MoA for desert locust control. Ground and aerial control activities, surveillance and capacity-building efforts were implemented. The use of the biopesticide metharizium acridum was mainstreamed to reduce outbreaks and upsurges. Additionally, the introduction of e-Locust gadgets and Earth Rangers technology enabled the MoA to monitor and coordinate desert locust control operations more effectively.

Addressing gender and vulnerable populations

The efforts of the United Nations extended to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly in drought-affected areas. Service providers were capacitated to deliver quality GBV response, SRH and MHPSS services. A total of 306 service providers, including 172 women, were trained to enhance these services. Furthermore, 51 disaster risk management staff, including 22 women, were trained on the linkage between climate change and SRH and rights, with a focus on the impact on vulnerable women and girls.



306 service providers were trained to deliver quality GBV response, SRH and MHPSS services



51 disaster risk management staff were trained on the linkage between climate change and SRH and rights

Through these comprehensive efforts, the United Nations has significantly strengthened the capacity of Ethiopia to manage climate and disaster risks. By advancing policies, enhancing early warning systems and building resilience in key sectors such as health, agriculture and livelihoods, the United Nations has contributed to the progress of Ethiopia towards a more climate-resilient and sustainable future. These initiatives not only address immediate challenges, but also lay the foundation for long-term resilience and development.

Output 4.2: Normative frameworks, institutions and systems strengthened for conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of the use of biodiversity and natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability for development

Ethiopia faces significant challenges in environmental sustainability due to rapid urban expansion and land degradation, driven by economic and infrastructural development over the past three decades. To address these challenges, the Government of Ethiopia, with the support of the United Nations, has undertaken extensive efforts to restore degraded lands, conserve biodiversity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. These initiatives aim to ensure environmental sustainability while fostering development and improving livelihoods.

Restoring degraded lands and combating desertification

The Government of Ethiopia has committed to restoring degraded lands under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, focusing on systematic resource mobilization and coordinated landscape restoration efforts. Through the Greening Drylands Partnership initiative, the United Nations supported the establishment of four fully equipped nursery sites in Samara, Hawassa, Jimma and Bahir Dar. These nurseries play a pivotal role in supplying seedlings and supporting tree planting efforts. As a result, 172.86 hectares of land in urban and peri-urban areas of these cities were planted with diverse tree and fruit species. This initiative not only promotes soil restoration, but also enhances income generation and livelihood diversification for local communities.

As part of the natural resources and environmental rehabilitation programme, the United Nations provided awareness and training programmes to local institutions and communities, along with the distribution of tree seedlings to local government institutions and residents. These efforts have strengthened community engagement in environmental restoration and sustainable land management (SLM).

The United Nations also supported the implementation of the Great Green Wall initiative of Ethiopia, a pan-African programme launched by the African Union in 2007 to combat land degradation and desertification,



Photo: Abdulahi Aden Gesse leads water through canals from the Genale River. The United Nations supports communities around Dollo Ado of the Somali region to transform refugees and the host communities from humanitarian assistance complemented by the provision of climate-resistant seeds, training on good farming practices and linking farmers to markets.

Source: WFP, 2024.

enhance food security and help local communities adapt to climate change. The United Nations support focused on integrating science, policy and SLM investment decisions across Great Green Wall initiative countries, including Ethiopia. A database mapping intervention areas, types of SLM activities and other initiatives for future investments was developed in four pilot countries, including Ethiopia. Additionally, the United Nations provided technical support to strengthen forest sector institutional arrangements, identify capacity gaps and offer recommendations. Capacity-building training was also provided to 99 forest experts on forest inventory techniques.

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

The United Nations has played a crucial role in conserving biodiversity and mobilizing biodiversity finance in Ethiopia. It has enhanced the capacity of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute through high-level training programmes, provision of equipment and materials. These efforts aim to promote the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity resources while ensuring access and benefit-sharing arrangements. By supporting these institutions, the United Nations has contributed to the protection and preservation of the rich biodiversity in Ethiopia, which is vital for the country's sustainable development and the well-being of its people.

The United Nations also strengthened the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) National Committee, enabling the effective participation of Ethiopia in regional and global platforms such as AfriMAB and the MAB International Coordinating Council. This support has influenced research, policy and practice in biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management. The programme has improved livelihoods through sustainable resource use, enhanced food security by supporting agrobiodiversity, and created opportunities for green jobs, ecotourism and collective conservation efforts. Women and youth have particularly benefited from improved access to resources and opportunities, leading to greater participation in natural resource conservation and management.

Climate change strategy and sustainable agriculture

The United Nations supported the development of the Climate Change Strategy (2022–2031) of Ethiopia, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers. This strategy envisions making agrifood systems part of the solution to the climate crisis by advocating for and scaling up climate action with local communities and farmers. It provides a framework for implementing the strategic framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and emphasizes scaling up technical support, climate finance and action to help Ethiopia meet its climate targets under the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

The United Nations has also supported Ethiopia in scaling up climate ambition in land use and agriculture through nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. A community-based participatory watershed management assessment was conducted to identify transformative climate solutions. Additionally, the United Nations provided

technical support for the implementation of the Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project, a World Bank-financed initiative with \$129 million in technical assistance. This included capacity development for the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise to design and implement a standardized digitalized plantation inventory. As a result, the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise has completed an inventory of over 92 per cent of its total plantation area, with the remaining 8 per cent delayed due to security challenges.

The United Nations also facilitated outreach on agrifood solutions to climate change, biodiversity and food security through the establishment of a dedicated pavilion at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion. This platform hosted discussions among policymakers, academia and farmers on transforming agrifood systems as well as implementing climate action in agriculture and food security.

Supporting smallholder farmers and livelihoods

The United Nations has made significant contributions to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers across Ethiopia. It facilitated access to farming technologies, reaching 79,784 smallholder farming households (41,488 female-headed households) and benefiting approximately 400,000 people across five regions: Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Somali and Tigray. As a result, 25,946 hectares of land were brought under cultivation, improving production and productivity.

In terms of financial empowerment, the United Nations supported the formation of over 2,300 village savings and loan associations, involving 56,025 households (44,820 female-headed households) in the Amhara and Gambella regions. These associations accumulated savings of ETB 13.10 million, providing financial security and opportunities for investment.

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Photo: Serke kassa, 35, holds a newborn lamb in her backyard in Tenta Woreda, Amhara Region. Recurrent climate-related and human-induced shocks continue to undermine efforts to sustain resilience and improve livelihoods in the region. The United Nations and its partners provided shoats and seed money to communities to provide early livelihood recovery support as they recover from the Northern Ethiopia conflict among other shocks.

Source: WFP, 2024.

The United Nations also supported smallholder farmers and market actors in Gambella by providing seeds, training on good agricultural practices and equipment for post-harvest management. This initiative resulted in the procurement of 5,000 metric tons of produce from smallholder farmers and market actors under the local and regional food procurement programme of the United Nations for refugee interventions in Gambella. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute and Pula, the United Nations supported 122,000 smallholder farmers to be insured under the area yield index insurance scheme through the government input voucher scheme.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in strengthening the normative frameworks, institutions and systems in Ethiopia for biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use and environmental sustainability. By supporting land restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate change strategies and smallholder farmers, the United Nations has contributed to Ethiopian efforts to combat land degradation, enhance food security and promote sustainable development. These initiatives have not only protected the natural resources in Ethiopia, but have also improved livelihoods, empowered vulnerable populations, and laid the foundation for long-term environmental and economic resilience.

Output 4.3: Institutions and systems strengthened, and solutions adopted to reduce pollution and increase access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy

The United Nations, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, has implemented a range of initiatives to address the critical challenges of pollution and energy access. These efforts focus on mitigating the adverse effects of air pollution, promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions, and building institutional capacity to ensure long-term environmental sustainability and public health benefits.

Addressing pollution: mitigating ambient and household air pollution

The United Nations has taken significant steps to address the dual challenges of ambient and household air pollution in Ethiopia. These efforts began with an in-depth investment case study, which revealed alarming findings about the scale of the problem. Household air pollution alone is responsible for nearly 39,000 deaths annually, while also imposing severe economic losses amounting to approximately \$8 billion. Similarly, ambient air pollution contributes to over 25,000 deaths each year and carries an economic burden of \$824 million. In response to these findings, the study recommended six key interventions, including transitioning from biomass to cleaner cookstoves, implementing diesel particulate filters and improving waste management practices. The study also highlighted the significant economic benefits of addressing household air pollution, with potential savings of \$2.4 billion and the prevention of approximately 6,000 premature deaths annually.

Building on these findings, the United Nations provided technical support for the development of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on Air Quality and Health (2025–2030) of Ethiopia. This plan, which was endorsed by the government, focuses on strengthening stakeholder coordination and governance to ensure accountability across relevant sectors. It also emphasizes the importance of public awareness campaigns to inform communities about the health impacts of air pollution and the actions they can take to reduce household air pollution. The Multi-Sectoral National Action Plan includes the implementation of regulatory frameworks aimed at reducing emissions and targeting key air quality indicators, such as particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone concentrations. Additionally, the plan prioritizes strengthening research capacity for

air quality monitoring, modelling and data analysis to support evidence-based decision-making.

To support the implementation of these initiatives, the United Nations has focused on capacity-building for air quality monitoring and prevention. Over 35 experts from the MoH, regional health bureaux, environmental agencies, transport and meteorology sectors, and public health schools were trained to facilitate the implementation of air quality and public health guidelines. These guidelines, developed and endorsed by the MoH in 2022, align with the WHO 2021 Global Air Quality Guidelines, ensuring that Ethiopian efforts are consistent with international best practices.

In addition to addressing air pollution, the United Nations has strengthened the capacity of the Government of Ethiopia to implement the revised Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention. This included generating data on the presence of POPs in Ethiopia, which contributed to the Stockholm Convention's effectiveness evaluation and supported national policymaking. The capacity of national laboratories was enhanced to analyse POPs according to international standards, and laboratory staff received training to improve their performance in sampling and analysis. These efforts have positioned Ethiopia to meet its obligations under the Stockholm Convention and advance its national environmental goals.

Promoting clean, affordable and sustainable energy

The United Nations has also played a pivotal role in increasing access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy in Ethiopia. Through policy analysis, advocacy and the development of innovative solutions, the United Nations has supported the creation of an enabling environment for renewable energy markets and the adoption of sustainable energy technologies.

One of the key achievements has been the distribution of over 1.3 million clean energy technologies in rural communities, including improved biomass cookstoves and solar energy systems. These technologies have benefited 821,721 households, reaching approximately 4.1 million people. The United Nations also facilitated the mobilization of \$1.58 million from financial service providers to support renewable energy enterprises and promoted business incubation in the energy sector, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.



Photo: Students attending class at Hilaweyn Refugee Camp in the Somali region of Ethiopia.
Source: WFP, 2024.

The United Nations has implemented several solar-powered initiatives to improve energy access and livelihoods in Ethiopia. For example, small-scale solar-powered irrigation and drinking water facilities with a capacity of 90 kilowatts were installed, benefiting smallholder farmers and agro-industrial businesses. In rural schools, 9 kilowatts stand-alone solar energy systems were established, providing electricity for over 2,000 students and staff members, including 25 per cent who are persons with disabilities. These systems have enabled access to e-teaching, computer usage and improved educational services, significantly enhancing the quality of education in these communities. In the Sidama region, a 94 kilowatts solar-powered irrigation system was installed, benefiting 750 smallholder farmers and covering 150 hectares of irrigable land. This intervention has enabled the cultivation of high-value cash crops, boosting household incomes and demonstrating the transformative potential of renewable energy in agriculture.

Another notable achievement was the installation of a 300 metres institutional biogas plant at a university in South Ethiopia. This initiative has benefited over 46,000 students and staff by reducing air pollution from open fires as well as alleviating the health and workload challenges faced by female staff members working in the university cafeteria. The biogas plant has also contributed to the university's sustainability goals by providing a clean and reliable energy source.

Energy solutions for refugee camps

The United Nations has adopted a comprehensive strategy to provide clean, affordable and sustainable energy solutions for cooking, lighting and powering community facilities in refugee camps. Surveys and assessments have revealed the cross-cutting impact of inadequate energy solutions on protection, education, nutrition and the environment in these settings. By addressing these challenges, the United Nations interventions have improved the quality of life for refugees while promoting environmental sustainability.

The United Nations has made significant progress in strengthening the institutions and systems of Ethiopia to reduce pollution and increase access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy. By addressing the dual challenges of air pollution and energy access, the United Nations has contributed to improving public health, enhancing livelihoods and fostering environmental sustainability. These efforts not only mitigate the adverse effects of pollution, but also empower communities and create opportunities for sustainable development, laying the foundation for a healthier and more resilient future for Ethiopia.

Output 4.4: Governance and planning capacities strengthened at national and subnational levels to promote sustainable urban development, especially in primary and secondary cities/towns

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in strengthening governance and planning capacities at both national and subnational levels to promote sustainable urban development in Ethiopia. These efforts have focused on enhancing urban planning, improving service delivery, addressing climate-induced hazards, and advancing waste management practices, particularly in primary and secondary cities and towns.

Enhancing urban planning and governance

With the support of the United Nations, 42 cities across 10 regions (excluding Tigray and Central Ethiopia) revised their structure plans using spatial planning tools and skills provided through continuous capacity-building interventions. These revisions have significantly improved service delivery, particularly in the provision of serviced land, which is critical for sustainable urban growth. Additionally, 13 secondary cities from six regions and one city administration – Adama, Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Dire Dawa, Gonder, Harar, Bishoftu, Wolaita Sodo, Arba Minch, Hossana, Dessie, Shashemene and Welkite – adopted policies, regulations, strategic documents and implementation manuals to enhance urban planning, governance and service delivery. These measures have laid the foundation for more efficient and sustainable urban management.

Building on the city resilience action planning tool introduced in previous years, the United Nations supported three secondary cities – Adama, Dire Dawa and Hawassa – and Arada subcity in Addis Ababa to address climate-induced hazards, particularly flooding. This intervention has helped these cities curb the risks associated with climate change and improve their resilience to environmental challenges. Furthermore, the capacity of the Addis Ababa City Administration was strengthened to facilitate readiness for the establishment of an infrastructure integration system. This system has enabled joint planning and execution of projects by sector organizations, ensuring the sustainability and resilience of urban utility and infrastructure services.

In addition, the United Nations initiated support for three cities in the Afar and Somali regions to improve local planning and better manage climate mobility issues. This support is particularly important in regions that are highly vulnerable to climate-induced displacement and mobility challenges. To sustain these efforts and strengthen the government's capacity to fulfil the reporting obligations of Ethiopia on SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, a new memorandum of understanding was signed between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure. This collaboration has contributed to the achievements

Advancing waste management practices

The United Nations has also supported efforts to improve waste management practices in Ethiopia, addressing the observed low coverage of solid waste management services. During the reporting period, the formal collection system covered only 40 per cent to 45 per cent of waste, with most of the collected waste not being properly managed. To address this challenge, the United Nations worked with the federal Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure, city administrations (including Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Hawassa, Bahir Dar, Jigjiga and Harar), and Jigjiga University to promote the implementation of waste prevention and sound management policies. These efforts were aligned with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international best practices.

In Hawassa, the United Nations supported the application of the Fukuoka Method for solid waste management as a solution to reduce the risks associated with open dump sites and safeguard public health. This method has proven to be an effective and sustainable approach to managing solid waste in urban areas. Furthermore, through the Waste Wise Cities and African Clean Cities Platform, the United Nations provided technical assistance to more than 42 towns across the Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, Benishangul-Gumuz and Harar regions, as well as the city administrations of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. This assistance has contributed to the realization of cleaner and healthier cities, advancing the progress of Ethiopia towards achieving the SDG targets on waste management.

The support of the United Nations has been instrumental in strengthening governance and planning capacities for sustainable urban development in Ethiopia. By enhancing urban planning, improving service delivery, addressing climate-induced hazards and advancing waste management practices, the

United Nations has contributed to the creation of more resilient, sustainable and liveable cities. These efforts contribute to ensuring that urban development in the country is inclusive, environmentally sustainable and responsive to the needs of its growing population.



Photo: Tayech, 25, is a mother of two. Together with her husband, they moved their family to the Gelabo site for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2020 due to the conflict. She gave birth to her youngest baby at the IDP site six months ago.

"This is not the first time we fled due to conflict. I'm afraid we might have to move again due to the drought here," she says. "I want to go back to my life. I want to have a real home for my children, get back to my land and continue farming. Even though I am grateful for all the support we get here, this is not home."

Source: IOM, 2023.

VI. United Nations Working Together Better: Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

The United Nations in Ethiopia continued to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency by adopting integrated and coordinated approaches, both programmatically and operationally, in its support to the Government of Ethiopia. Notable joint efforts included support for global, regional and national events such as the SDG Summit, the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth United Nations Climate Change Conference, the African Peace Conference, the World Without Hunger Conference and the Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up. Additionally, key achievements include the development of Durable Solutions Action Plans for the Somali, Tigray, Afar, South Ethiopia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, as well as the preparation and submission of the UPR and Beijing+30 country reports. These collaborative efforts have strengthened system-wide coherence, streamlined operations and reduced transactional costs, maximizing results.

United Nations operating as one

Through the operations management team (OMT) and its five working groups, the United Nations in Ethiopia is implementing the Business Operations Strategy 2020–2025. In early 2024, the OMT conducted an annual review of the 40 common services implemented in 2023, identifying cost avoidance and quality improvements. Of these, 14 services were categorized as cost-benefit analysis types, delivering both enhanced quality and cost savings, while the remaining services focused on quality improvements. The 14 cost-benefit services alone resulted in a cost avoidance of \$2.1 million.

For 2024, the OMT has identified 41 common services for collaboration, including 14 cost-benefit analysis types. One service was dropped and three new services were added. The estimated cost avoidance for 2024 is \$4.4 million.

To further streamline operations, two awareness raising sessions on common back offices were held for OMT members. The common back offices initiative aims to consolidate key operational services across agencies, reducing duplication and transactional costs.

United Nations communicating as one

Building on the United Nations Joint Communication Strategy, the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) implemented internal and external communications activities to enhance visibility, maintain a positive reputation and promote the SDGs. Key achievements include:

- **Social media engagement:** The United Nations in Ethiopia increased its presence on social media, disseminating messages aligned with UNCT priorities. These platforms highlighted major development issues and strategic engagements with senior government officials and multilateral partners.
- **Mainstream media engagement:** Major United Nations events were covered by mainstream media, showcasing the development and humanitarian work of the United Nations. Interviews with the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator provided opportunities to communicate the contributions of the United Nations to national development priorities.
- **International observance days:** Events were leveraged to raise public awareness, mobilize resources and celebrate global achievements. Messages from the United Nations Secretary-General and locally tailored communications were amplified through social media to reach diverse audiences.

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the UNCG organized training on disability-inclusive communications, based on the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. This training equipped members with tools to make communications accessible and inclusive, resulting in improved disability-inclusive products, such as the bimonthly United Nations Ethiopia Newsletter.



Photo: Keyeh Tekli Woreda maize seed distribution to farmers.
Source: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), 2023.

The UNCG also played a key role in countering hate speech and disinformation. In 2024, the United Nations Hate Speech Task Force organized four webinar trainings, in partnership with the United Nations Association of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Media Council. These sessions focused on topics such as artificial intelligence in countering hate speech, online harassment and digital literacy. The webinars targeted youth, media houses and fact-checking organizations, fostering discussions on legal frameworks, the role of artificial intelligence in combating hate speech, and best practices for identifying and addressing misinformation.

Additionally, the UNCG consulted with stakeholders, including media representatives, CSOs and the Government of Ethiopia, on the principles proposed by the United Nations for information integrity on digital platforms. Feedback was incorporated into the United Nations Global Principles for Information Integrity: Recommendations for Multi-stakeholder Action, a framework for safer and more humane information spaces.

Integrating cross-cutting issues

HDP nexus: In response to the complex and protracted crises in Ethiopia, the United Nations has prioritized advancing the HDP nexus approach to address the root causes of persistent humanitarian needs. This approach aims to promote Ethiopia's self-reliance, reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance and foster long-term resilience. Achieving these goals

will require a fundamental shift in how humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts are planned and implemented, with a stronger focus on integration, prioritization and sustainable impact.

In 2023, the Humanitarian Country Team and Development Partners Group initiated the development of an HDP Nexus Framework for Ethiopia. This effort is supported by the Nexus Accelerator Group and Nexus Technical Group, which include 56 partners from the United Nations, NGOs, the government, donors and international financial institutions. These groups are tasked with drafting the HDP Nexus Framework, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2024.

To operationalize the nexus approach, regional coordination mechanisms are being established, with terms of reference already developed. These mechanisms will launch in early 2025, with the goal of covering the entire country within two years. Region-specific operational action plans will guide the implementation of the nexus approach, ensuring that local needs and priorities are addressed effectively.

The HDP nexus approach has also been integrated into the Humanitarian Response Plan and will form a key cross-sectoral component of the new Cooperation Framework (2025–2030). By addressing the underlying drivers of vulnerability and promoting sustainable solutions, the United Nations aims to support Ethiopia in transitioning from crisis response to long-term development and peacebuilding.

Leave No One Behind Working Group: Following a mapping exercise that assessed the mainstreaming of leaving no one behind issues in United Nations programming, the United Nations established the Leave No One Behind Working Group in 2023. The group, which includes four subworking groups on youth, disability inclusion, gender and persons living with HIV/AIDS, is designed to reorient the efforts of the United Nations towards those most in need. However, due to data gaps and a lack of a comprehensive assessment, the evidence base was limited to only defining which populations (who, how, why and where) are the most left behind in Ethiopia. In July 2023, the UNCT agreed to conduct a leaving no one behind assessment to: (i) enable the United Nations to design a more ambitious inclusion approach and more impactful programmes to rescue the SDGs premised on meaningful participation of identified vulnerable/excluded groups; and (ii) provide a robust evidence base for advocacy and collaboration with government and partners on the needs and opportunities for empowerment of these groups.

In April 2024, the United Nations initiated the process of developing a comprehensive Leave No One Behind assessment focused on the four Leave No One Behind populations, women and young girls, youth, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS. The preliminary gap analysis for the assessment was completed in June 2024, which entailed a desk review of existing information and the establishment of data quality, consistency and completeness of information held by United Nations organizations that is crucial for identifying eight specific vulnerable subgroups within the four vulnerable groups, including: female-headed households, pastoral youth, children with disabilities, ex-combatants and female sex workers. The assessment further included refugees, migrants and IDPs as vulnerable populations. The assessment will then conduct comprehensive stakeholder mapping in selected regions to better understand the systemic barriers these subgroups face and inform the development of the next phase of the Cooperation Framework. The assessment is expected to be completed in December 2024.

Data, and monitoring and evaluation: The United Nations Data and Statistics Working Group and the monitoring and evaluation subgroup, comprising of data as well as monitoring and evaluation experts from United Nations organizations aimed at coordinating the

United Nations effort on data and statistics, continued its support to the Government of Ethiopia and UNCT in data-related initiatives. The major focus for the groups during the reporting period was the development of the next phase of Cooperation Framework 2025–2030 for Ethiopia and supporting the Government of Ethiopia in the development of the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey.

The United Nations through the Data and Statistics Working Group members had been supporting the development of the survey questionnaires and standardizing approaches for the survey. During the reporting period, the working group reviewed the open access data system developed in the Ethiopian statistics system.

Both working groups have been instrumental in conducting the quality review of the Results Framework of the new Cooperation Framework and will lead on the development of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan and Indicator Methodological Notes for the Cooperation Framework in 2025.

In addition, the monitoring and evaluation subgroup members served as the technical management team for the end evaluation of the current Cooperation Framework 2020–2025. The end evaluation took place from February–September 2024 and its findings informed the development of the new Cooperation Framework.

PSEA: The United Nations plays a pivotal role in coordinating the Ethiopia PSEA Network, which provides oversight and guidance to regional networks in all regions across the country. The United Nations brought on board a full-time inter-agency PSEA Coordinator through a standby partnership for two years.

In 2023, PSEA trainings were cascaded to various regions, benefiting 8,785 individuals, including United Nations personnel, community members and stakeholders. To enhance community awareness, contextualized information, education and communication materials were developed and distributed, reaching 5,126 individuals across different regions. Furthermore, the PSEA Network facilitated various awareness-raising initiatives engaging over 1,618,000 individuals.

The PSEA Network collaborated closely with the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group, Gender in Humanitarian Action and age/disability inclusion thematic areas to ensure that approaches are harmonized across humanitarian and development coordination forums. A revised humanitarian country team PSEA Strategy was endorsed in mid-2024, which focuses on three strategic areas of intervention: support to local organizations and communities; meaningful engagement with communities on what

constitutes sexual exploitation and abuse; and strengthened reporting mechanisms. Trainings were conducted with specific clusters on PSEA, and efforts continue to support local organizations to strengthen prevention and response efforts through engagement with the Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub. 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.



Photo: Abdulkadir Heyiru, a small retail shop owner in Addis Ababa, is among the 11,258 MSMEs now benefiting from the CheGebeya platform's services. CheGebeya, a digital platform by the United Nations and Kifiya Financial Technology, is transforming Ethiopia's MSME landscape by modernizing the fast-moving consumer goods supply chain and enhancing financial inclusion.

Source: UNCDF, 2024.

VII. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Looking towards the development of the next phase of the Cooperation Framework (2025–2030), the United Nations is amplifying its partnership approaches with a specific focus on representative groups for populations most at risk of being left behind. This includes enhanced partnership dialogues with women and youth groups as well as organizations for persons with disabilities (OPDs). In addition to that, as Ethiopia is undergoing significant macroeconomic reforms, the United Nations is engaging with ongoing partnerships with the Government of Ethiopia to support the development of a new sustainable financing model to achieve the country's development goals as outlined by the 10-Year Development Plan and SDGs.

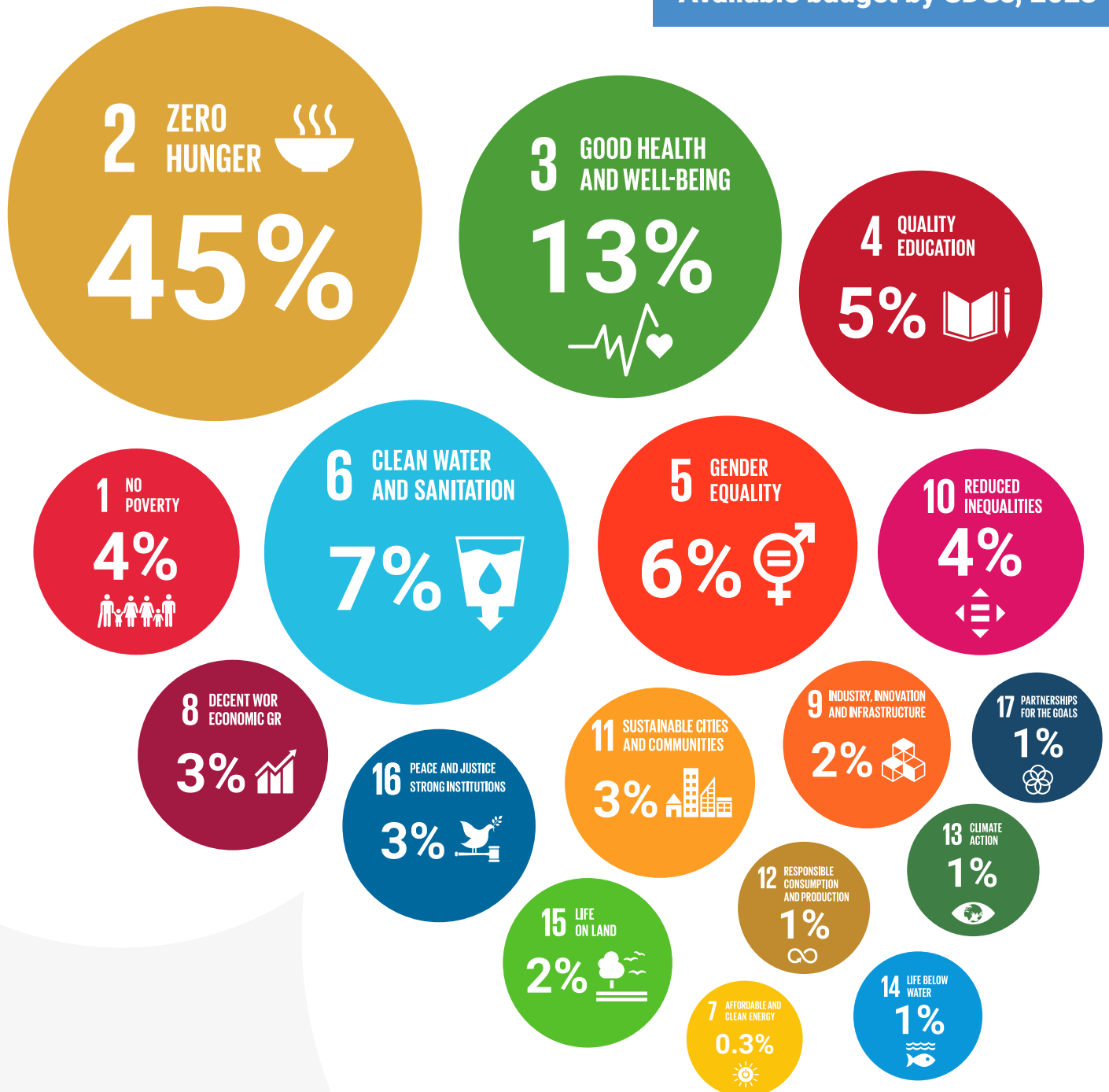
In December 2023, the UNCT, led by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, held a dialogue with key OPDs in Ethiopia to discuss issues pertaining to persons with disabilities and to develop a concrete action plan towards more meaningful engagement between the United Nations and OPDs to advance the disability inclusion agenda and identify areas for joint advocacy.

For partnerships with youth and youth organizations, in April 2024, the United Nations held a special dialogue with the United Nations Special Envoy on Youth to meet directly with youth representatives and youth network to discuss the progress and challenges on engaging youth and youth-focused programming in Ethiopia. In June, a follow-up consultation was held with youth

groups to discuss the United Nations Leave No One Behind assessment to receive input, feedback and the identification of regional networks that could be engaged in the assessment. Also in June 2024, the MoWSA in partnership with United Nations launched U-Report, a digital engagement platform for adolescents and young people that enables them to exchange ideas, views and concerns. The tool provides the opportunity for young people to participate in regular poll surveys; engage with chatbots, take part in youth activities in their local communities, and share their perspectives on a wide range of topics from education and employment to healthcare and social issues, offering an invaluable data tool for the United Nations to better design and target programming and interventions for young people.

The United Nations, in collaboration with the Development Partners Group, a national dialogue platform for development partners in Ethiopia, has been supporting the Ministry of Finance in the development of the country's Development Finance Assessment and the Integrated National Financing Framework. The Integrated National Financing Framework, which is expected to be finalized in 2025, aims to establish a new national financing architecture that includes comprehensive policy, regulatory, institutional and market reforms, which will guide the economic transition of Ethiopia and promote sustainable financing models to address the country's development financing gap.

Available budget by SDGs, 2023







VIII. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

To bolster the Cooperation Framework and national development priorities, the United Nations in Ethiopia is working towards the goal of leveraging thematic funds and multi-partner trust funds. These innovative funding vehicles are crucial for enhancing resilience, as they promote inter-agency coordination and joint programming as well as create opportunities to mobilize financing for national institutions. Additionally, by acting as a financing catalyst, the United Nations is positioned to mobilize resources more effectively, fostering a collaborative approach that aligns with national development goals. This strategic focus not only strengthens institutional capacity, but also enables the United Nations to explore new avenues for sustainable development, ensuring a more adaptive and responsive financial landscape for the country.

In January 2024, the MoH, the MoA, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Animal Health Institute and the United Nations officially launched the Ethio-Pandemic Multi-Sectoral Prevention, Preparedness and Response Project. This partnership project aims to strengthen surveillance systems, enhance the national laboratory system, and ensure the availability of skilled and competent health professionals for a sustainable and functional public health system to enable prevention, detection and response to pandemics. The project is supported by a \$50 million grant from the Pandemic Fund¹¹ and an additional \$63 million in co-financing other partners.

Table 1: 2023 funding overview per outcome area¹³

Outcome	Total required resources	Available budget	Newly mobilized resources	Funding gap
People 	\$2,344,392,723.00	\$986,904,705.00	\$113,507,970.00	\$1,357,488,018.00
Democracy, justice and peace 	\$113,881,907.00	\$54,118,609.00	\$12,084,687.00	\$ 59,763,298.00
Prosperity 	\$102,698,125.00	\$102,483,604.00	\$54,569,825.00	\$ 214,521.00
Environmental protection and climate change 	\$241,058,992.00	\$145,903,246.00	\$95,192,516.00	\$95,155,746.00
Total	\$2,802,031,747.00	\$1,289,410,164.00	\$275,354,998.00	\$1,512,621,583.00

¹¹ A joint World Bank and WHO health preparedness fund.

¹² United Nations Development Coordination Office, "Ethiopia", November 2024. Available at <https://uninfo.org/v2/location/170/programming/analysis/sdgs> (accessed on 4 February 2025).

IX. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Ethiopia is navigating a period of significant transformation, marked by opportunities for progress as well as complex challenges that require coordinated and sustained efforts. The reporting period was characterized by a dynamic operating environment shaped by security dynamics, natural disasters, and ongoing post-conflict recovery efforts. Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has demonstrated resilience and a strong commitment to advancing peace, stability, and development. However, several key challenges continue to impact the effective implementation of programmes and the achievement of SDGs.

The security situation in some regions, including Amhara, remains a challenge, affecting access to programming sites and the delivery of essential services. Displacement caused by insecurity has further strained already limited resources, underscoring the need for strengthened efforts to ensure access to essential services and critical interventions. Climatic shocks, including recurrent droughts and floods, have exacerbated humanitarian needs and disrupted development gains. These environmental vulnerabilities have affected livelihoods, displaced communities, and heightened food insecurity, particularly in rural areas. Collaborative efforts to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience-building measures are critical to protecting the most vulnerable populations and ensuring sustainable development.

Economic pressures, including inflation and declining official development assistance, have created funding gaps that challenge the ability to meet growing humanitarian needs while maintaining a focus on long-term development. These economic constraints have also limited the ability of local governments and partners to co-finance programmes, reducing the scope and scale of interventions. Strengthening resource mobilization and exploring innovative financing mechanisms will be essential to addressing these gaps and ensuring that both immediate and long-term needs are met.

Systemic challenges across key sectors, such as health, education, WASH, and nutrition, continue to require attention. Public health emergencies, conflict, and climate events have impacted the demand, access, and uptake of essential services. For example, the coverage

of critical nutrition services remains below 50 per cent, with the exception of salt iodization and exclusive breastfeeding. This highlights the need for integrated, multisectoral approaches to address the growing triple burden of malnutrition, which includes undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity. Similarly, education systems face significant challenges in ensuring equitable access to quality learning opportunities, particularly for displaced and marginalized populations. WASH services are under strain due to infrastructure gaps, population displacement, and environmental degradation, further compounding public health risks. Addressing these interconnected challenges will require coordinated efforts and innovative solutions.

The limited availability of robust disaggregated data has also posed challenges to evidence-based decision-making and tailoring interventions to the specific needs of vulnerable populations. Without comprehensive data on geospatial, socioeconomic, and gender inequities, it has been difficult to address systemic barriers effectively or allocate resources efficiently. Strengthening data-collection, analysis, and monitoring systems will be key to improving the efficiency and impact of programmes. Reliable data is also essential for tracking progress, measuring the impact of interventions, and ensuring accountability and transparency.

Partnership and coordination gaps have further complicated efforts to address these challenges. While collaboration with the Government, civil society, and development partners is critical, ensuring effective coordination and alignment of efforts – particularly at the subnational level – remains a significant hurdle. The engagement of local actors, including women-led organizations and community-based groups, has been limited, reducing the potential for localized sustainable solutions. Strengthening these partnerships and fostering greater collaboration with trusted local partners is essential to harnessing best practices and developing context-specific solutions.

Despite these challenges, important lessons have emerged. The persistence of protracted humanitarian needs highlights the importance of addressing root causes, including conflict, climate change, and systemic

inequities. A shift towards integrated, long-term solutions that bridge the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus is essential to reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance and promoting self-reliance. Building the resilience of communities and systems, particularly in the context of recurring climatic shocks and other crises, will be critical to achieving sustainable development outcomes. Investments in prevention, preparedness, and adaptive capacity are needed to protect vulnerable populations and ensure progress.

The experience in Ethiopia underscores the critical role of robust data in driving informed decision-making and effective resource allocation. Reliable disaggregated data is essential for identifying gaps, tracking progress, and tailoring interventions to meet the specific needs of marginalized populations. Strengthening data systems will enable more efficient and impactful programming, while also enhancing accountability and transparency. Similarly, the value of localized solutions has become increasingly evident. Engaging trusted local partners, civil society organizations, and community-based groups is crucial to developing context-specific interventions that address the unique needs of communities. Local actors are often best positioned to understand and respond to these needs, making their involvement essential to achieving sustainable

outcomes.

The challenges faced in Ethiopia also highlight the need for integrated, multisectoral approaches to address interconnected issues such as malnutrition, public health emergencies, and education gaps. For example, nutrition interventions must be linked to health, WASH, and social protection systems to achieve sustainable outcomes. Strengthening partnerships and coordination mechanisms, particularly at the subnational level, will be critical to scaling up efforts and ensuring sustainability. Joint resource mobilization and the use of innovative approaches, such as digitization, can further enhance programme delivery and increase efficiency.

Finally, the importance of equity and inclusion cannot be overstated. Addressing geospatial, socioeconomic, and gender inequities is essential to ensuring that no one is left behind. Programmes must prioritize the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, displaced persons, and marginalized groups, to achieve equitable and sustainable development. By focusing on these lessons and adopting a more integrated and inclusive approach, the United Nations and its partners can work together with the Government and other stakeholders to overcome systemic barriers and create transformative change in Ethiopia.



Photo: The people drinking water from the Koraro Health Center community WASH facility after its reconstruction through the Government's Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities in Ethiopia project, which is financed by the World Bank and implemented by UNOPS.

X. United Nations Country Team Key Priorities 2024–2025

In 2024, the United Nations in Ethiopia embarked on the design of the next phase of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2030), setting the stage for a transformative approach to addressing the country's development challenges. The framework builds on the lessons learned from previous efforts and aligns with the 10-Year Development Plan of Ethiopia, midterm national sectoral plans and the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through extensive consultations with government stakeholders, development partners and civil society, the UNCT identified five interconnected priorities that will guide its work: peace and governance; economy, food systems and energy; social development; environmental sustainability, resilience and preparedness; gender equality; and the empowerment of women and young people.

These priorities reflect the United Nations commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges of Ethiopia while fostering long-term resilience and sustainable development. The focus on peace and governance underscores the need to strengthen institutions, promote inclusive decision-making and restore trust in governance systems, particularly in the aftermath of conflict. By supporting the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and advancing the inclusion of conflict-affected populations, the United Nations aims to lay the foundation for lasting peace and stability. Efforts to promote free, fair and inclusive electoral processes, alongside the completion of the National Action Plan on WPS, further demonstrate the dedication of the United Nations to fostering democratic governance and ensuring that all voices are heard.

Economic transformation is another critical priority, with a focus on strengthening economic governance, promoting investment, and enhancing food systems and energy access. The United Nations will work to attract high-quality local and foreign investment, particularly in IAPs, while advancing innovative technologies and practices to boost agricultural productivity. These efforts aim to diversify rural incomes, build community resilience and create sustainable livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable populations. At the same

time, the United Nations will support macroeconomic management and social protection systems to ensure that economic growth is inclusive and equitable.

Social development remains at the heart of the United Nations agenda, with a strong emphasis on improving access to essential services and addressing the needs of marginalized populations. The United Nations will work closely with the government and communities to enhance the quality of education, strengthen child protection systems and revitalize community-based nutrition services. Particular attention will be given to building the capacity of women-led organizations and relevant ministries to provide comprehensive services for GBV, SRH and MHPSS. These efforts aim to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the commitment of the United Nations to equity and inclusion.

Environmental sustainability and climate resilience are also central to the priorities of the United Nations. Recognizing the increasing frequency and intensity of climatic shocks, the United Nations will support the development and implementation of national action plans and strategies to address environmental challenges. Nature-based solutions, such as restoration, conservation and livelihood diversification, will be promoted to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities. The United Nations will also work to strengthen early warning systems, improve disaster preparedness, and increase access to clean and affordable energy. By adopting a standardized climate vulnerability assessment framework, the United Nations aims to inform adaptation planning and ensure that interventions are evidence-based and targeted.

Gender equality as well as the empowerment of women and young people are cross-cutting priorities that underpin all aspects of the work of the United Nations. The United Nations recognizes that achieving sustainable development requires addressing systemic gender inequities and creating opportunities for women and youth to thrive. Efforts to build the capacity of women-led organizations, promote gender-responsive policies, and ensure the inclusion of women and youth in decision-making processes will be central to the approach of the United Nations.

To operationalize these priorities, the UNCT has adopted five cross-cutting action areas: policy, advocacy, partnership and coordination; capacities and systems; financing; digitization and data; and population dynamics. These action areas reflect the commitment of the United Nations to leveraging innovation, strengthening partnerships and ensuring accountability in its work. For example, digitization will play a key role in improving data systems, enhancing programme delivery and increasing efficiency, while joint resource mobilization will ensure that programmes are adequately funded and sustainable.

The work of the UNCT in 2024–2025 will focus on finalizing the new Cooperation Framework and developing operationalization strategies, including a: funding framework and financing strategy; communication strategy; monitoring, evaluation and learning plan; and joint workplan. The signing of the

Cooperation Framework, scheduled for the second quarter of 2025, will mark a significant milestone in the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen coordination and collaboration among agencies. One of the key strategies for implementation will be the development of transformative joint programmes under each priority area, ensuring that the work of the United Nations is integrated, impactful and aligned with national and global goals.

By aligning its priorities with the development agenda of Ethiopia and the global SDGs, the UNCT aims to address the root causes of vulnerability, build resilience and promote sustainable development. The focus on peace, governance, economic transformation, social development, environmental sustainability and gender equality reflects the holistic approach of the United Nations to tackling the challenges faced by Ethiopia and creating a brighter future for all.

Table 2: 2024–2025 key priorities per outcome area

People



Key priorities

- Implement co-financing initiatives and mobilize domestic resources to ensure programme sustainability.
- Build the capacity of women-led organizations, women's representative organizations and relevant ministries to provide comprehensive GBV, SRH and MHPSS services with a survivor-centred approach.
- Revitalize community-based nutrition services and strengthen household food and nutrition services.
- Support the government and communities to improve access to and quality of learning and skill development opportunities.
- Strengthen the national child protection case management and information management system.
- Strengthen durable solutions for IDPs and support the implementation of regional action plans.

Democracy, justice and peace



Key priorities

- Support the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and restore the credibility and capacity of governance and rule of law institutions.
- Promote the inclusion and consultation of conflict-affected populations.
- Foster a collaborative, multi-agency approach to ensure a free, fair and inclusive electoral process in 2026.
- Complete the National Action Plan on WPS.
- Expand outreach for one-stop birth registration in health facilities after delivery and during immunization.

Prosperity



Key priorities

- Support economic governance and macroeconomic management.
- Develop and implement investment promotion strategies to attract high-quality local and foreign direct investment into IAIPs.
- Advance crop and livestock production and productivity through innovative technologies and practices.
- Build community resilience by implementing environmentally sustainable practices.
- Diversify rural household incomes through targeted interventions for vulnerable communities.
- Strengthen social protection systems.

Environmental protection and climate change



Key priorities

- Support the development and implementation of national action plans, strategies and frameworks related to the environment.
- Enhance climate resilience for vulnerable groups through nature-based solutions, such as restoration, conservation, livelihood diversification and value chain development.
- Develop and implement a standardized climate vulnerability assessment framework to inform adaptation planning.
- Strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness to minimize human and economic losses.
- Improve access to irrigation systems to increase crop and livestock productivity and link incomes to diverse markets.
- Strengthen institutions and adopt solutions to increase access to clean and affordable energy.

Acronyms and abbreviations

CSO(s)	Civil society organization(s)
ECDE	Early childhood development and education
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ETB	Ethiopian birr
EWARS	Early warning, alert and response system
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBV	Gender-based violence
HDP	Humanitarian, development and peace
IAIP(s)	Integrated agro-industrial park(s)
IDP(s)	Internally displaced person(s)
KEC	Kaizen Excellence Center
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MHPSS	Mental health and psychosocial support
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MSME(s)	Micro, small- and medium-sized enterprise(s)
NDC	National Dialogue Commission
NGO(s)	Non-governmental organization(s)
OMT	Operations management team
OPD(s)	Organization(s) for persons with disabilities
POP(s)	Persistent organic pollutant(s)
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
RMNCAYH	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent and youth health

SCORE	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SGBV	Sexual- and gender-based violence
SLM	Sustainable land management
SME(s)	Small- and medium-sized enterprise(s)
SOP(s)	Standard operating procedure(s)
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
TB	Tuberculosis
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations country team
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	Organization for Women in Self Employment
WPS	Women peace and security
YPS	Youth peace and security

