



# TRANSFORMING ETHIOPIA TOGETHER

THE UNITED NATIONS IN ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA   
Delivering as one





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# FOREWORD

**The country, as a founding member of the United Nations, has always enjoyed a rich and evolving partnership with the United Nations system on a vast array of issues, development, peace and security and humanitarian spheres.**



The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia remains a reliable partner to our Government. The strong partnership with the UN has played an important role in Ethiopia's growth and transformation efforts, and our achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

The UNCT continues to support Ethiopia in a number of key areas as the country seeks to become a carbon-neutral middle-income economy by 2025. The UN's strategic support over the years, under its harmonised Delivering as One approach, in critical areas such as basic services, agriculture, industry, governance and climate change and disaster risk management has allowed the country to continue to build on its unprecedented development gains.

The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which guides the UNCT's support to our Government through 2020, integrated the national medium term development plan, Growth and Transformation Plan II (2016-2020) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, it plays an important role in the country's path towards a carbon-neutral middle-income economy by 2025 and its achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

The Ethiopian Government looks forward to a strengthened partnership with the UNCT as we build an inclusive, innovative, climate smart and resilient Ethiopia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Tekeste'.

Abraham Tekeste (Ph.D)  
Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



**ETHIOPIA HAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF) WHICH REPRESENTS A VEHICLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLEDGES IT MADE AT THE LEADERS' SUMMIT ON REFUGEES IN SEPTEMBER 2016 IN NEW YORK. THIS SEEKS TO PROMOTE REFUGEES' SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH INCLUSION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.**

# PREFACE

**With a history dating back centuries and a young population eager for an inclusive prosperity, Ethiopia is a country of unique and rich past with a strong promise of a bright future. Ethiopia's recently launched branding as the Land of Origins is testimony to its commitment to build on its gifts from the past as it builds a better tomorrow.**

Over the past 15 years, the country has made socio-economic progress and gains in human development, with the share of the population living in poverty decreasing by nearly half. With the roll out of the SDGs, including SDG 1 on zero poverty that talks about ending poverty in all its forms from everywhere, the country will need to scale up and undertake the kind of development that lifts all Ethiopians out of poverty and leaves no one behind.

Ethiopia's current momentum has placed it on a path to achieve its ambition of becoming a lower middle-income status country by 2025. To realize this milestone, the country will need to tackle its vulnerabilities, particularly to climatic and environmental shocks, and strengthen the resilience of families and communities to shocks and stresses.

Ethiopia's national development plan guiding the UN's intervention areas focus on building a climate smart and resilient nation while promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

In addition to these frameworks, the Government and the UN in Ethiopia will work together to ensure that the country reaps a stronger outcome by putting in place a strong linkage between development and humanitarian interventions. This integrated nexus approach is one that the UN Secretary General is strengthening as a unique approach for the UN's work across the globe to enhance development results by building the resilience of communities and systems towards ending need.

Enhancing its partnership with all stakeholders forms the bedrock of the UN's engagement in Ethiopia as we go forward to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the coming years the UN is expanding its partnership with the private sector, civil society organisations and academia in order to further enrich its support to the Government's vision to achieve the SDGs. We are also paying more attention to the need to engage with youth and women, not only as beneficiaries of our intervention in Ethiopia but as partners that can inform our programming and thus enhance our results on the ground.

This book offers a glimpse into the work and priority issues of the United Nations in Ethiopia.



Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie  
United Nations Resident Coordinator,  
UNDP Resident Representative & United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator





**THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UN IN ETHIOPIA WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY REAPS A STRONGER OUTCOME BY PUTTING IN PLACE A STRONG LINKAGE BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS.**

# ABOUT ETHIOPIA

**Ethiopia has a rich and ancient history and is also the oldest independent nation in Africa. The country has a strong track record of regional and global leadership, being one of the founding members of the African Union as well as the United Nations.**

Over the years, especially since the epic battle of Adwa in 1896 where the Ethiopian army faced off an invading European power, the word “Ethiopia” has gone from the name of a country to an inspiration for freedom for Africans and others across the globe.

Today, Ethiopia is home to than 94,352,000<sup>1</sup> making it the second most populous country in Africa, following Nigeria and ahead of Egypt, which had held that position until recently.

Ethiopia’s current constitution came into force in 1995 and brought into place a federal system comprising nine regions (Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Harari, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Tigray). The capital city is Addis Abeba (meaning new flower in Amharic) and was founded as a permanent capital in the late 19th century by Emperor Menelik II and his wife Empress Taytu Betul. Addis Ababa has

since become to be referred to as the ‘Capital of Africa’ given the presence of the African Union and the African secretariat for the UN, which is the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Ethiopia follows an open door policy for refugees and is currently one of the leading host countries in the world. It currently hosts some 750,000 refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan, 57% of whom are children<sup>2</sup>.

The country’s topographic features a wide and diverse range from the high plateau in the Central Mountains to the valleys of the East African Rift, with the Danikil Depression in the north of the country said to be one of the hottest place on Earth in terms of year-round average temperatures, and it is also one of the lowest places on the planet. Standing at 2,355 m (7726 ft) above sea level, Addis Abeba is one of the top five highest capitals in the world.

**Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia covers an area of 1,127 million square kilometres and shares borders with Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.**



## DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Ethiopia has recorded strong economic growth and social development over the past 15 years. During that period, poverty and under-five mortality rates declined by 47% and 60%, respectively, access to education increased and the gap between girls' and boys' school enrolment narrowed. Between 2000 and 2015, Ethiopia was one of the fastest enhancers of human development in the world. The country's Human Development Index increased by 58.3%, compared with 24.2% in sub-Saharan Africa overall.<sup>3</sup> By 2015, Ethiopia had achieved all but two of the MDGs.<sup>4</sup>

Agriculture has dominated the Ethiopian economy and accounted for the largest share of employment. The sector has largely remained traditional, with small holder farmers reliant on rain-fed production thus placing stress on the country's efforts to become food self-sufficient.



# ABOUT ETHIOPIA

The role of industry is growing in Ethiopia as the foundation of the country's ambition to become a lower middle income with a carbon-neutral economy by 2025. This focus on escalating the industrial sector has included investing in industry zones and agro-industrial parks, focusing on light manufacturing and attracting foreign direct investment, while expanding the job market, particularly for youth and women, improving technology transfer, and strengthening linkages with the rest of the economy, including the agricultural sector. Ethiopia's new industrial strategy is an area that the UN is also scaling up its support around given its potential for promoting inclusive growth. The UN's support focuses on building national capacity and facilitating access to global best practices.



## KEY FACTS

- GDP per capita increased from US\$691 in 2014/15 to US\$794 in 2015/16
- The economy grew by 8% in 2015/16
- Annual inflation reached 8.6% in April 2017, up from 7.4% in 2016

Over the years, Ethiopia's pro-poor budgeting has enhanced access to social services. However, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2016 'States of Fragility' paper lists Ethiopia as the tenth most fragile country. The increasing frequency and severity of droughts experienced over the last few years, including in 2015 when the country

witnessed the worst El Nino induced drought in over 30 years, is an area of major concern as this vulnerability could jeopardise development gains.

The Government of Ethiopia and its partners are actively exploring a new way of working that will help reduce humanitarian needs through smarter and better development programming in the most vulnerable areas.

## AT A GLANCE <sup>5</sup>

### POVERTY HEADCOUNT (ESTIMATE)

23.4% (2015)

### NET PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT

97.1% (2016)

### GENDER DISPARITY IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

0.93 AND 0.94 (2015)

### CHILD MORTALITY

67/1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (2016)

### MATERNAL MORTALITY<sup>6</sup>

353/100,000 LIVE BIRTHS (2015)

### HIV PREVALENCE

1.1% (2014)

### ACCESS TO HIV DRUGS

54% (2014)

### POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO TREATED BED NETS FOR MALARIA

45.8% (2014)



### PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

61% (2016)

### LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

64.6 (2015)

### URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT

17.5% (2015)

### UNEMPLOYMENT, TOTAL (% OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)

5.2% (2014)

# THE UNITED NATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

**In addition to being one of the founding members of the United Nations, Ethiopia also has a long history of participation in UN peacekeeping missions and is one of the leading contributing countries.**

From 1950 to 53 Ethiopia took part in the UN Command multinational force in the Korean War, later in 1960 Ethiopia sent its forces to join UN-led operation in the Congo. More recently, in 1994 the country deployed its forces to the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda and has since deployed its personnel in eight UN peacekeeping operations.

In 2010 the Ethiopian Ministry of National Defence established an international peacekeeping training centre with the hopes that it can become a center of excellence in peacekeeping, peace building and conflict resolution efforts. The Peace Support Training Center seeks to strengthen the capacity and all aspects of peace operation training in Ethiopia and Africa, by addressing

critical training gaps in peace keeping operations of the African Union and the United Nations.

UNDP, in partnership with the Government of Japan, has supported the establishment of the the centre to provide capacity development and international peacekeeping trainings.

Sustaining peace and security is a key priority area for the UN as underlined by the UN Secretary General António Guterres when he emphasised its linkage with development. The new way of working in Ethiopia brings together humanitarian and development with peace and security support. This approach also includes developing cross border programmes, such as

the one launched in 2017 that brought together the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, the UN country teams in both countries. This five year cross border programme seeks to turn borders from barriers to bridges by improving the livelihoods of the local communities through strengthening market linkages; strengthening peace building and conflict resolution infrastructure; and helping the communities build their resilience to cyclical climate change impacts. The UN in Ethiopia is translating this commitment to the ground with interventions, including partnering with the UN in Kenya and both governments to roll out a cross border programme.

**The UN's intervention focuses on supporting Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformation Plan that seeks to sustain rapid, broad-based and equitable economic growth and development; improve the quality and competitiveness of the productive sectors, particularly agriculture and manufacturing; transform the domestic private sector; unlock the potential of urbanisation to sustain rapid growth and promote structural transformation; accelerate human development; enhance sustainable technology capacity; build the capacity of the public institutions to build democratic good governance and promote active engagement of citizens; and build a climate resilient green economy.**

Ethiopia is also a host to one of the largest UN country teams with representatives of 28 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working in the country. The UN's intervention in Ethiopia spans across a spectrum of thematic issues guided by the country's development priorities.



These include agriculture, industrial development, disaster risk management, social protection, climate change, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, HIV and AIDS, governance, data and demographic dividend, and equality and empowerment of women and youth, as well as humanitarian.

# THE UNITED NATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

The UN's support for Ethiopia has prioritised building national capacity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, develop key national strategies such as the Climate Resilient Green Economy, and build the capacity of its public institutions, to name a few.

Since 2008, under the strong leadership of the Government, the United Nations in Ethiopia has been working to enhance its coordination in order to improve its efficiency and achieve greater impact on the ground. This includes a renewed focus on results, and harmonizing business practices across agencies.



## IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN ETHIOPIA

The United Nations in Ethiopia is introducing innovations to promote efficiency, effectiveness and quality improvement for United Nations businesses and common services in Ethiopia. One such approach is a joint inter-agency Business Operations Strategy (BOS), a framework created by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The BOS reduces transaction costs and improves the quality of goods and services by putting in place long-term agreements for major goods and services.

Under the UNDAF 2016–2020, the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 will provide a more systematic and comprehensive approach to harmonize and simplify the United Nations' operations and common services. This will improve the quality of business operations and increasing efficiency. The Business Operations Strategy 2.0 is projected to generate savings of approximately US\$31 million by 2020.





## **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK 2016–2020**

The UN in Ethiopia uses the technical expertise and global networks to contribute in a harmonized manner to meet Ethiopia's development vision through a development assistance framework that helps build the capacity of national institutions, support evidence-based policy and strategy development as well as strengthen monitoring systems for increased accountability and transparency.

The UNDAF 2016–2020 is the fourth development assistance framework in Ethiopia and serves as the key programming instrument for ensuring coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system operations.



**The UNDAF is in full alignment with the national development priorities outlined in the GTP II and the SDGs and is organized around the following five pillars:**

**Pillar 1: Inclusive growth and structural transformation**

**Pillar 2: Resilience and green economy**

**Pillar 3: Investing in human capital and expanded access to quality and equitable basic social services**

**Pillar 4: Good governance, participation and capacity development**

**Pillar 5: Equality and empowerment**

## PILLAR 1

# INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

**Ethiopia has sustained double-digit growth over the past decade, with significant improvements across human development indicators.**

**POVERTY REDUCTION** has been driven by agricultural growth and supported by pro-poor spending on basic services, effective rural safety nets and essential infrastructure.<sup>7</sup> Stabilization measures have reduced inflation, from 38% in 2010/11 to 10% in 2013/14.<sup>8</sup>

Productive employment remains a challenge, however, and the Government's industrial development policy focuses mainly on micro and small-scale enterprises. Generating employment for youth is of key importance, particularly given the large cohorts of students who will graduate from universities in the coming years. Under the GTP II, the Government is seeking to expand the manufacturing sector to transform the structure of the economy and increase employment opportunities for all Ethiopians.

### KEY FACTS<sup>9</sup>

- Share of gross domestic savings in GDP increased from 9.5% in 2009/10 to 21.8% in 2014/15
- Public savings increased from 5.1% of GDP in 2009/10 to 6.5% of GDP in 2013/14
- In 2013, youth unemployment stood at 6.8%, down from 11% in 1999.
- The total labour force in Ethiopia aged 15-64 has increased from 26.5 million in 1994 to 36 million in 2009<sup>10</sup>

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## OUTCOME 1: GENERATING ROBUST AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Agriculture continues to dominate Ethiopia's economy, accounting for more than 40% of GDP, 77% of employment and 84% of the country's exports.<sup>11</sup> The United Nations is working with relevant government actors and other partners to strengthen the capacities of farmers and agro-pastoralists to adopt innovative farming techniques.

This includes technologies that increase production and productivity, reduce pre- and post-harvest losses, improve livestock management, encourage sustainable land management, promote integrated watershed management and stimulate climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices.



## PILLAR 1 INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

**“Initially the members were very poor, but now they are able to meet their household food needs and even have savings,” said Mohamed Sheik Mohamed, the head of the increasingly self-sustainable cooperative. “This season we used seeds saved from the previous year’s production to plant our fields.”**



### > Breaking poverty cycles in the Somali Region

Despite improvements in Ethiopia’s overall food security situation, high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition continue to affect the Somali region. Recurrent droughts, climate change, environmental degradation and insufficient livelihood options have trapped rural communities in a perpetual cycle of poverty.

To help tackle this challenge, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with the support of the African Solidarity Trust Fund, has supported six communities in Gursum and Erer districts to enhance livelihoods and reduce poverty through economic diversification and work

opportunities. Some 2,000 households in these communities have benefited from skills training and received inputs for poultry, crop and forage production.

In the Fafan Community, the Hodan cooperative earned ETB36,000 (about US\$1,600) from its production – nearly half of which came from tomato sales. By sharing production among themselves, members effectively boosted their household food security. The cooperative has saved and banked their profit, approximately ETB17,000 (about US\$750), which will enable future investment and expansion.

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



“With the growing youth population and the increasing number of graduates from our still growing higher learning institutions, there is an all too palpable need to create massive employment opportunities in Ethiopia,” said Ethiopian Prime Minister H.E Hailemariam Desalegn.



## OUTCOME 2: FOSTERING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

With United Nations support, Ethiopia is boosting industrial and service sector growth and increasing employment opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups. Interventions are giving micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including small farming businesses, the skills and capacities they need to produce quality goods and attain business certification/ accreditation. The United Nations is also working with service providers to expand access to financial protections and enhance services for otherwise vulnerable groups.

### > Unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit

The UNDP-supported Entrepreneurship Development Programme, launched by the Government of Ethiopia in 2013, has supported more than 40,000 budding entrepreneurs with training. The guidance has equipped beneficiaries to launch or expand their businesses. Beza Asefa, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, used the training to transform her interest in fashion into a thriving business with 17 employees.



## PILLAR 2

# RESILIENCE AND GREEN ECONOMY

The 2015 Climate Change Vulnerability Index identifies Ethiopia as being “at extreme risk” and ranks it as the seventh most vulnerable country out of 198 countries assessed.

**THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH** and the livelihoods of its people have already been affected by the current weather variability. Ethiopia is therefore committed to making its economy climate resilient by 2025, with United Nations support.

### KEY FACTS

- In 2010/11, approximately 27%<sup>12</sup> of the population was below the food poverty line<sup>13</sup>
- 14% of non-poor rural households are vulnerable to poverty<sup>14</sup>
- Ethiopia supports more than 900,000 refugees and Ethiopian returnees who require assistance<sup>15</sup>

### OUTCOME 3: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS IN DISASTER-PRONE AREAS

Ethiopia is increasingly witnessing the impacts of climate change, including erratic rains and prolonged drought, which have wrought havoc on pastoral livelihoods, reduced access to water, and decreased the quantity and quality of forage.

The United Nations is therefore working with relevant partners in Ethiopia to expand and strengthen development programmes in areas of cyclical humanitarian need. This includes strengthening the capacities of national and regional institutions responsible for disaster risk management. At the community level, the United Nations is supporting initiatives aimed at fostering community resilience and self-sufficiency. The Government is also receiving support to provide effective and timely emergency response to protect the lives and livelihoods of disaster-affected households.



## > Transforming lives by improving livelihoods

For a typical Mao Komo woman, walking more than three hours on foot to a neighbouring town to grind her grains is part of the weekly routine. If walking becomes a struggle, she may find herself crushing the grains by hand with grinding stones. This will cause her hands to peel and add seven to eight hours to the meal preparation process.

Built as part of the Developing Regional States programme, the mill has helped women in Asha's association spend less time walking and more time on income generation activities. Through the programme, the women have also gained access to education on maternal health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition and protecting the environment.

The Developing Regional States programme is a joint, flagship intervention established in 2012 by the Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with three United Nations agencies—UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). It aims to bring equitable, accelerated and sustainable development to the Somali, Afar, Benishagul and Gambella regions by building local governance capacity, supporting livelihood activities and improving basic social services. Through a participatory planning method, community members are encouraged to advance their own development priorities.



“This used to be our story, four years back, but not anymore,” said Asha Mohammed, member of the women's association in Zeyba Kebele, Benishagul region. “Now we come to the mill at our convenience, save our time and labour for other productive works around the house. You can also see that our hands are normal like anybody else's.”

## PILLAR 2 RESILIENCE AND GREEN ECONOMY

### > Protecting the vulnerable at the community level

“It looks like a flower, I like it!” smiled Kaira, 16, a student and one of the vulnerable displaced girls who was one of 1,265 internally displaced women and girls who benefitted from IOM Ethiopia’s distribution of dignity kits that include solar powered lamps. Lack of personal and hygienic items impact the dignity and respect women receive within the community. Internally displaced women and girls can be highly vulnerable, and protection issues are a primary concern in displacement sites. Through the partnership with Little Sun GmbH, IOM’s provision of solar lamps will equip displaced women and girls with safe, sustainable and clean lighting solutions to improve the quality of their daily lives. The lamps also limit the exposure to hazardous forms of lighting such as candles, firewood and kerosene lamps, thereby reducing fire risks and negative health consequences

According to data from IOM’s April Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report, over 60,000 households are displaced across Ethiopia due to the drought currently impacting Ethiopia and countries across the region. The Somali Region of Ethiopia is experiencing the largest impact of the drought and hosts 75 per cent of all households internally displaced due to drought.



### OUTCOME 4: INCREASING ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

With United Nations support, the Government of Ethiopia is strengthening its approach to integrated social protection services. This involves improving collaboration among relevant sectors on the provision of social protection and linking social protection with other basic social services. Capacities are also being strengthened for the development and implementation of costed national and regional social protection action plans and the expansion of social and health insurance coverage at the local level.

### OUTCOME 5: ENABLING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The United Nations in Ethiopia is capitalizing on the recent momentum on climate change and green growth to strengthen government capacity in these areas. Relevant ministries are gaining the capacities to mainstream climate change into sector strategies and plans and advocate for the use of climate-friendly and smart technologies.





## > Valuing Ethiopia's ecosystems and conserving its biodiversity

For decades, Ethiopia has struggled with deforestation driven by the consumption of wood fuel, industrial demand, the expansion of agriculture and various forms of land degradation. By 2010, Ethiopia had lost nearly 75% of its original forest area, according to FAO. Other estimates are even higher.

Forest ecosystem valuation studies are gradually becoming recognized as one of the most powerful instruments for guiding countries in sustainable forest management and spurring policy makers to take necessary action. In 2016, Ethiopia took part in a joint United Nations REDD+ valuation study of its forest ecosystems, as part of the national Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy, in a landmark step towards reducing deforestation and enhancing sustainable forest management. The study was carried out in collaboration between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP and FAO.

The study generated a number of important findings that are being used to inform policymaking in Ethiopia. A key recommendation emerging from the study is to revise the share of the forestry sector in national accounting from 3.8% of GDP to 6.1% (US\$7.9 million). The study

also revealed that forests contribute ETB58.3 million (6.7% of GDP) to other sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, through the provision of ecosystem services,<sup>16</sup> bringing the total value of market benefits to 9.9% of national GDP. In addition, ETB2.4 million is attributed to non-market benefits associated with people's willingness to preserve forests and other factors.<sup>17</sup>

Ethiopia has also established four biosphere reserves in Kafa, Yayu, Sheka Forest and Lake Tana. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) biosphere reserves—areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems—serve as models for sustainable human living. Each reserve promotes solutions for reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, and presents unique opportunities for developing climate change strategies aimed at mitigation and resilience.

The biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Their status is internationally recognized. There are 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries today, including 81 in 33 countries in Africa.<sup>18</sup>



# PILLAR 3

Investing in human capital and expanded

# ACCESS TO QUALITY AND EQUITABLE BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

**ALTHOUGH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE** in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH and education, basic social services remain weak. In particular, the quality of schooling and educational infrastructure must be improved. Health, maternal and neonatal mortality rates remain unacceptably high and challenges persist in regards to the quality of services and availability of supplies and medicines. Given Ethiopia's vulnerability to climate change, millions of Ethiopians continue to face chronic food insecurity and inconsistent access to water and sanitation.

## KEY FACTS<sup>19</sup>

- **The maternal mortality ratio is 420 deaths per 100,000 live births; higher than the MDG target of 267 deaths per 100,00 live births<sup>20</sup>**
- **The proportion of women delivering in a health facility and receiving skilled assistance during delivery increased from 9% to 16% between 2011 and 2014<sup>21</sup>**
- **1.5% of Ethiopians are living with HIV**
- **Net primary enrolment increased from 83% in 2009/10 to 95% in 2014/15**
- **Access to clean water increased from 47% of the population in 2005/6 to 57% in 2013/14**
- **Stunting among children under 5 declined from 58% in 2000 to 40% in 2014**



### > Working together as one to enhance results

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNWomen are working together to implement the joint Promoting Women's Health Rights programme, which was initiated in 2015 with the support of the Delivering Results Together Fund. The programme has facilitated the revision of the country's health policy to become more comprehensive and inclusive.

The agencies have also supported the Government to develop a five-year strategic plan for the health sector that is based on gender, equity and human rights principles; a monitoring tool for the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to track human rights

issues in the health sector; practical handbooks and training and awareness-raising guidelines on women's health rights; and restrictions on female genital mutilation/cutting practices for health workers.

The programme has highlighted the importance of United Nations coherence, coordination and joint funding. Through practical application, it has proven that better results can be achieved when United Nations agencies and partners contribute their own expertise to the joint work, when multi-sector approaches are employed and when the Government is fully engaged in the process.



### OUTCOME 6: IMPROVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

The United Nations is strengthening health sector capacities at the national and sub-national levels to help expand access to health care for vulnerable Ethiopians and refugees. This includes making sure that health facilities have the necessary materials and equipment, while also strengthening capacities for health financing so that all Ethiopians can afford quality services. It also means developing health intervention packages—such as reproductive health services for adolescents and youth—that are informed by evidence.

## PILLAR 3 ACCESS TO QUALITY AND EQUITABLE BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

### OUTCOME 7: IMPROVING THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

With United Nations support, the Government of Ethiopia is implementing the National Nutrition Programme and strengthening programme coordination at national, regional and zonal levels. The United Nations is also building the capacity of the health, agriculture and education systems to provide quality preventive and curative nutrition services to infants, young children, adolescents, pregnant women, lactating mothers and people living with HIV. In communities, the United Nations is working with households to improve nutrition care practices and treat malnutrition.



#### > Addressing nutrition over the short and long-terms

Ethiopia is experiencing one of the worst droughts in decades due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, which continues to wreak havoc on the livelihoods and nutritional health of affected families. This is particularly important for children, given recent increases in child malnutrition rates in Ethiopia. Some 450,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition in 2016.

The United Nations is therefore supporting families and communities through the provision of emergency therapeutic foods where needed, while also investing in long-term interventions that address the country's nutrition gaps. This includes improving nutrition-sensitive agriculture and land management systems and introducing livelihood diversification, such as poultry production, to improve food security for vulnerable households and enhance their income.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**“Information is key—that’s what every announcement in the media said about HIV in Ethiopia,” Fanaye reflected. “I decided to open Lucy Positive women Association to educate positive women and give them the means to empower themselves and take control over their own lives, and support other women living with HIV” said Fanaye.**



## **OUTCOME 8: PROVIDING HIV SERVICES TO KEY POPULATIONS**

Using the Fast-Track approach, the United Nations is supporting its counterparts in the Government and civil society to increase access to and use of quality, equitable, gender-responsive and sustainable HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. Efforts are being made to institutionalize a high-impact HIV prevention programme in schools and higher education institutions to ensure that key populations receive a minimum HIV prevention package. Emphasis is also placed on HIV testing and treatment retention.

### **> Saving lives by raising HIV awareness**

When Fanaye’s father passed away, her mother was left to provide for nine children. As her home life deteriorated, and the family fell into poverty and food insecurity, Fanaye struggled at school and began to engage in sex work for money. As a young girl, she found it difficult to negotiate with her customers and was sometimes forced into unprotected sex. She knew her behaviour was risky, but she was surprised when she tested HIV positive at the age of 17.

Fanaye was among the first women to disclose her status. Her motivation was to break silence and stigma surrounding HIV, and she wanted to set a precedent and encourage other women living with HIV to do the same. Fanaye is the founder and executive director of Lucy Positive women Association, a non-governmental organization that provides support and information to women living with HIV in Addis Ababa.

AIDS response could help to influence the profound structural, social and economic changes needed to end AIDS and make the SDGs a reality: by promoting accountability through grassroots alliances with communities acting as agents of change and by challenging inequality, stigma and marginalization and leaving no one behind. Today, thanks to free access to treatment, Fanaye is an advocate for people living with HIV and a proud mother of an HIV-free child.

In setting out a Fast-Track approach to end AIDS, the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy firmly acknowledges the need to root the HIV response in Agenda 2030, recognizing the interdependence between HIV and the SDGs, from ending poverty (SDG 1) to promoting inclusive societies (SDG 16) and strengthening partnerships (SDG 17).



## PILLAR 3 ACCESS TO QUALITY AND EQUITABLE BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

### OUTCOME 9: INCREASING ACCESS TO AND USE OF WASH SERVICES

Working with the Government, the United Nations is helping to build the capacities of technical staff in the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, as well as local counterparts, to plan, coordinate and implement development and emergency-related WASH interventions. The goal is to increase the capacities of relevant institutions to gather the data needed to strengthen service delivery. In communities, the United Nations is increasing knowledge and awareness to improve household hygiene and sanitation practices.

#### > Helping Ethiopians expand their choices

Girls are disproportionately disadvantaged in Ethiopia, particularly in vulnerable communities, where the practice of sending children to school, especially girls, is uncommon. Girls more often carry the burden of household chores and spend their days fetching water from distant rivers.

A joint United Nations programme in four developing regions has helped to raise awareness on the importance of education for all school-age children. When the programme improved the community's access to clean water this not only improved the villager's health, but it also proved an entry point to lobby and encourage parents to send their girls to school as they were no longer required to trek for miles to fetch water. Even girls who are married off at an early age, such as Asiya Ali, have gained the opportunity to return to school.



### OUTCOME 10: STRENGTHENING EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL LEARNERS

For the United Nations, education represents an opportunity to transform young lives, which is why access to education is at the heart of the United Nations mission to build peace, eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development. The United Nations considers education a human right for all throughout life, and advocates not only for access to education, but also quality learning.

In Ethiopia, the United Nations is supporting the Government to provide equitable access to quality, comprehensive education at all stages of the formal and non-formal education cycle. This includes strengthening the education system to ensure school retention, especially for girls. The United Nations is also investing in education services that cater to hard-to-reach and disadvantaged children in urban, rural and pastoralist settings; as well as children caught up in emergency situations.



### > Celebrating every step in the communities' battle to abandon child marriage and FGM

Clad in the colorful traditional dress of Afar women, fifteen year old Kediga Ali was among the participants of the ceremony where communities in three Kebeles (localities) in the Afambo Woreda (District) in the Afar Region publicly declared the abandonment of child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) during the first year of the launch of the SDGs in Ethiopia.

Kediga was very happy to be part of the social movement which did away with these two age-old practices at once – the first of its kind in the Afar Region. She was also very proud that the ceremony took place in the compound of her school.

Kediga is a facilitator in the unmarried girls' club, which meets twice weekly in her school since it started six years ago. The unmarried girls' club is one component of the programme that promotes an integrated approach for communities to abandon Child Marriage and FGM that UNFPA has been supporting for the last three years in seven localities in the Afambo Woreda with funding from the UN Association in Sweden.

“We educate each other on the harms of child marriage and FGM and on sparing ourselves the ordeals our elder sisters went through,” Kediga

says, adding, “We were very ignorant before. The discussions have opened our eyes”. But this is not without its challenges. Kediga recalls an incident where a 14 year old student in her school reported to the unmarried girls' club that she was about to be married off by her parents. The case was taken up by the District Women and Children Affairs Office and law enforcement bodies. When confronted, the parents of the girl defended their decision arguing that the girl was already 18 and that they had every right to marry her off. In the absence of vital registration, the legal enforcement bodies had no means to counter this and the girl was married off. Luckily she still goes to school.

The country's effort to meet its commitment to end child marriage and FGM by 2025 is supported in an integrated manner through UNFPA piloted programmes in Afambo District, which have been scaled-up to the Abala District in the Afar Region where the programme is being implemented in 13 localities.

While the ceremony on the abandonment of child marriage and FGM was taking place in the Afambo District, UNICEF supported Ethiopia to launch a nationwide National Vital Events Registration to support the registration of vital events such as birth, marriage, divorce and death.



## PILLAR 4

# GOOD GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

**The Constitution of Ethiopia has comprehensively incorporated human rights principles and provides an extensive list of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.**

**THE COUNTRY'S FIRST NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN**, which addresses the rights of vulnerable groups and the right to a clean environment, was launched at the end of 2013. The Government has also established systems and structures that provide more efficient public services and promote good governance through a range of oversight and accountability institutions.

The Government of Ethiopia is also actively working to identify and address systemic governance issues. Efforts are being made to promote more pluralistic and inclusive democratic governance; fight corruption; promote transparency and accountability; and strengthen institutional capacity to implement national development plans. Key to these efforts will be stimulating broader civic participation in the political process and enhancing capacity for effective leadership.

### KEY FACTS

- **Access to public services has significantly improved in recent years, as reflected in improved access to primary health care, school enrolment rates, access to water and sanitation, etc**
- **The second five-year National Human Rights Plan was launched in April 2017**
- **The participation of women in the legislative bodies is steadily increasing, from about 28% in the previous National Parliament to over 38% in the current National Parliament, and on average about 40% representation in regional state councils**
- **Oversight and accountability institutions are becoming increasingly visible and delivering on their constitutional mandates**





## > Helping Ethiopians expand their choices

When Mulu Birhanu, a 24 year old woman with a BA in marketing got her first job, it was the highlight of years of perseverance to stay in school after a medical case left both her legs paralysed at the age of 12. Soon after landing her first job, Mulu's contract was unfairly terminated and lacking financial resources she was unable to take her matter to court. She soon came to know about the Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman (EIO) and the free services it provides for vulnerable persons, particularly those with disabilities. The EIO investigation uncovered that her hiring process had followed the appropriate channels and she soon found herself back at work.

UNDP's support for the EIO was part of a multi-partner engagement to strengthen Ethiopia's democratic institutions. A new five year governance and democratic participation programme was launched in 2017, building on early efforts and is expected to further advance good governance and deeply embed democratic principles at all levels across the country. The new programme will have a specific focus on three pillars: Improved inclusion, social cohesion and sustainable peace; Responsive, accountable and inclusive systems of governance; and Empowered and responsible citizens



## OUTCOME 11: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENSURING THE RULE OF LAW

The Ethiopian justice system is receiving support to deliver accessible, efficient and accountable justice to all citizens, particularly children, women and other vulnerable groups. A key focus area is the development of a national strategy, including by establishing and strengthening legal aid clinics targeting the most vulnerable populations. Support is also facilitating the development of policies and strategies, such as the national strategy on justice for children, child protection units and the national crime prevention strategy.

## PILLAR 4 GOOD GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### OUTCOME 12: FACILITATING EQUITABLE, PARTICIPATORY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations is working with key institutions to develop and implement national and sub-national development policies, plans and strategies. This includes institution-building, change management and middle-and high-level leadership development. The United Nations is also working with key institutions to support participation, transparency, accountability and inclusive processes and practices. Supporting the fight against corruption and ensuring that development is gender-responsive are also priorities, as is advancing social cohesion, peacebuilding and supporting the country's peace architecture.



**“Although I was excited about the [job] offer, within me I had some doubt about whether I would be accepted as equally as men since in my community men are assumed to take such roles,” said Mrs. Fikre. “To me the training was a timely one, which completely removed the fear within me and gave me the self-confidence and the determination to believe in myself that I can lead.”**

#### > Giving Ethiopian women the tools to transform institutions

Fikire Mulugeta, a talented professional woman and mother of three, participated in the UN Women-supported Transformative Leadership Training held in 2015. She took the training just three months after she had been promoted to a leadership position as Public Relations Core Process Leader of the Amhara National Regional Council Secretariat.

Emboldened by what she learned in the training, Mrs. Fikre is now paying the experience forward and supporting female colleagues to make greater contributions to their institutions. Her longer-term vision is to join an organization that works primarily on gender-related activities.

For now, she is using every opportunity to raise awareness on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Transformative Leadership Training for Women is an activity under the United Nations Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (JP GEWE), which is led by UN Women. The JP GEWE was launched in 2011 and brings together six United Nations agencies (UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) to support the Government of Ethiopia to improve the lives of Ethiopian women and girls.



## > Enhancing data for development

-Ethiopia has volunteered to become one of the first countries to provide a national report on the SDGs. The United Nations has therefore supported Ethiopia to hold intensive national multi-stakeholder consultations to feed into the report and carry out an SDG needs assessment, which identifies interventions and the strategic finance framework that will help the country achieve the global goals.

-Sound census data are central to the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with over 40% of the SDG indicators requiring population data. Geo-referenced population data are essential to describing spatial and social

inequalities and generating investment in health, education and employment. United Nations support for the 2017 Population and Housing Census is helping the country's statistical system embrace the data revolution through a shift from hand-drawn enumeration areas sketch maps to mobile geographic information system mapping technology and from traditional paper based questionnaires and scanning technology to digital data capturing using tablets.

-Through the support provided for the establishment of a web-based Integrated Management Information System, direct access is available to different sets of data generated

in the Ethiopia. These data are used to calculate indicators and produce custom tables and thematic maps including at lower administrative levels.

-With United Nations support, the Government of Ethiopia is establishing a conventional and decentralized civil registration and vital statistics system.

-The United Nations is advocating with the Government of Ethiopia to include the demographic dividend agenda in national policies, strategies and programmes. A national demographic dividend roadmap for Ethiopia is currently under development.



## OUTCOME 13: BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR BETTER DECISION MAKING

Key institutions are gaining capacities to generate evidence through equity-focused data collection and analysis. This includes mainstreaming the results-based management approach across all sectors and strengthening the decentralized civil registration and vital statistics systems. In particular, the United Nations is supporting the implementation of the National Statistical Development Strategy II and supporting the Government to monitor the SDGs and attain national development results.



## PILLAR 5

# EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

**The Government of Ethiopia has made considerable progress in regards to the empowerment of women and girls and bridging gender gaps.**

**GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT** and completion rates are nearly 100%;<sup>22</sup> women are increasingly active in politics; and the provision of land to millions of women has empowered women economically. The Government has also implemented national laws, norms and standards in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Despite this progress, gender inequality remains prevalent. Women and girls are at the lowest stratum of society compared with men and boys of the same socio-economic profile. Women only make up 30% of elected

officials and represent a similar share of the Judiciary.<sup>23</sup> Gender disparities remain significant in the labour force, with lower representation of women in the formal sector.

Trafficking in women and girls, and the regular and irregular migration of women and girls within and outside of Ethiopia for domestic work exacerbate women and girls' vulnerabilities to abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence. Harmful traditional practices such as female circumcision are often condoned in families and communities as ways of maintaining male superiority and privilege.

### KEY FACTS

- After the 2015 election, 213 of the 547 Members of Parliament were women, compared with only 116 female Members of Parliament in the previous parliament<sup>24</sup>
- While 84.7% and 82.7% of males of working age were employed in 2005 and 2013, respectively, the figures for women for the same years were 69% and 69.8%<sup>25</sup>
- Women only make up 26.9% of those employed in the professional and scientific categories<sup>26</sup>
- 41% of Ethiopian women aged 20–24 were married before they reached age 18; 8% were married before age 15<sup>27</sup>
- 23% of female children aged 0–14 years are circumcised<sup>28</sup>



## OUTCOME 14: PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

The United Nations is contributing expertise in three areas:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls;
- 2) Providing comprehensive and quality services that are essential to ensuring recovery and providing sustainable livelihoods for survivors of violence;
- 3) Strengthening the capacities of people at the community level, including working with men and boys, to eradicate the negative stereotypes that perpetuate violations of the human rights of women and girls.



### > Leaving no one behind

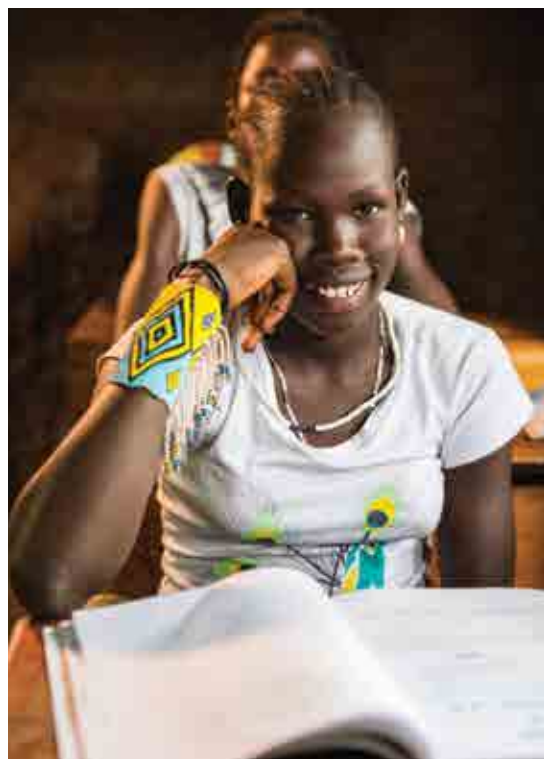
Addressing violence against women and girls is a key priority for the United Nations in Ethiopia. The UNWomen-supported safe house in the Oromia region provides a refuge for more than 100 women and girls who have survived violence, including rape. According to Ethiopia's 2016 Demographic and Health Survey, 35% of women have experienced spousal violence.

"The principles of the Sustainable Development Goals uphold the principle of leaving no one behind," said United Nations Resident Coordinator Ahunna, Eziakonwa-Onochie. "If the safe house wasn't available these women would have been left behind, and it is hard to imagine what would be their

## PILLAR 5 EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

### OUTCOME 15: EMPOWERING WOMEN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS

The United Nations and implementing partners are working together to increase the participation of young people, particularly young women, and adolescents in Ethiopia's development and decision-making processes. Institutions are receiving support to provide standardized youth-friendly services. Efforts are also underway to enhance the skills of women, youth and adolescents for effective participation, leadership and decision making.



### > Changing the lives of rural women in Ethiopia

For Kimiyaa Umar, a middle-aged, energetic mother of six, lack of capital and limited knowledge of how to run a viable business made it difficult for her to improve her livelihood. This was until one year ago, when she received an ETB3,000 interest-free loan (about US\$134) and training on basic business skills through a joint United Nations programme on gender equality and women's empowerment. More than 19,500 disadvantaged women in Ethiopia have benefited from the programme to date.

The stove technology cooperative, which began one year ago, now has 60 members and roughly ETB40,000 (about US\$1,780). Kimiyaa now leads a group of 13 women, who are programme beneficiaries. She is helping herself and her group invest in technologies that save labour, time and energy.



**“Before receiving the loan we were given training on how to start and manage a business, including how to save and the benefits of saving,” said Kimiyaa. “Using the skills we gained, all of us started different businesses and now each one of us has finished paying back the loan, and saved enough to invest in a different cooperative business of labour, time and energy saving cooking stove technology. Each member uses this technology in her house. We also sell the stoves in different villages to benefit more women.”**







## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>16</sup> This is particularly important, given how much deforestation is driven by factors emerging in other sectors of the economy.
- <sup>17</sup> This value is not compatible with the GDP accounting system and is only provided for additional consideration of the importance of forests to human society.
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## **PHOTO CREDITS**

Kisut G.Egziabher/UNHCR

Martha Mogus/UNDP

Nardos Mengesha/UNDP

Zerihun Sewunet/UNICEF

UNAIDS

UNESCO





## CONTACTS

United Nations in Ethiopia  
[www.et.one.un.org](http://www.et.one.un.org)  
[uncommunication.et@one.un.org](mailto:uncommunication.et@one.un.org)  
Twitter: @unethiopia  
Facebook: OneUNEthiopia

