

Communications Updates on COVID-19

March 2020-April 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – East Africa Regional Office (UN OHCHR-EARO)** in Ethiopia implemented the following activities in below;

1. COVID-19 Related Interventions

In collaboration with UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa and the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, **OHCHR** contributed to the handing over of medical supplies, PPE and IEC materials to the Federal Prison Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa at a handing over ceremony on 6 May 2020.

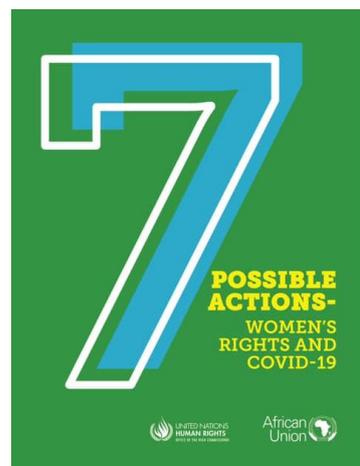
2. OHCHR's Dissemination of IEC Materials

No.	Materials	Language(s)	Agency	No. of Copies distributed
1.	UNODC Guidance Note: A leaflet and poster on 'COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Prisons and Places of Detention'.	Amharic	UNODC OHCHR UNICEF	3,800 copies were printed and disseminated to the Federal Prison Commission for further dissemination to the Federal Prisons.
2.	UNODC Prison Infographics on 'COVID-19 and people working on Prisons' developed for staff and health care providers.	Amharic	UNODC OHCHR	3,800 copies were printed and disseminated to the Federal Prison Commission for further dissemination to the Federal Prisons.
3.	Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNICEF Guidance Note on 'COVID-19 Prevention and Response Measures for Children Deprived of Liberty'.	Amharic	UNODC UNICEF OHCHR	2,000 copies printed and disseminated to Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre and the Federal Supreme

				Court Child Justice Project
4.	A Leaflet, brochure and flier listing recommendations on the 'Guidance for the Treatment of Children deprived of their liberty in the context of COVID-19'.	Amharic	UNODC UNICEF OHCHR	2,000 copies printed and disseminated to the Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre and the Federal Supreme Court Child Justice Project
5.	Sign Language IEC materials on 'COVID-19 Prevention Measures'.	Amharic	Ethiopian Public Health Institute Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development Ministry of Health, Ethiopia	Disseminated electronically on OHCHR's social media platforms and 3,000 copies.

3. Publications

- **OHCHR** and the African Union jointly developed new guidance: ***"Seven Actions": A guide to protect African women's rights during COVID-19"***. This guidance for AU Member States and Civil Society Organizations aims to inform actors on possible actions African States could take, in accordance with their human rights obligations, to avoid discrimination against women and girls in their responses to COVID-19.



INTRODUCTION

As the number of people with COVID-19 in Africa continue to rise, and governments imposes strict lockdown measures including states of emergencies, it has become increasingly apparent that similar to other parts of the world, women are most likely to bear the brunt end of the virus. This is despite the fact that, even though the disease does not discriminate, the measures States have put in place to respond are often discriminatory, both in the way they are developed, formulated implemented and measured. The majority of government response plans that are currently being rolled out have little to no inclusion of a gender lens.

This information sheet is to provide guidance on possible actions that could be taken to reduce the risk of women and girls being left behind as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, minimise the impact of measures on women, recognise the critical role of women in response and prevention efforts, and ensure gender analysis informs government actions and responses. This information sheet also outlines States human rights obligations in addressing the impact of COVID-19 at the national level.

Gender's women contribute 70% of workers in the health and social care, in Africa, the majority of community health workers are women, they are the first responders and caregivers for sick family members. The best practices of women make them particularly at greater risk of infection.

You can also access it here on: [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/COVID-19 and Women Rights 7 Possible Actions.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/COVID-19%20and%20Women%20Rights%207%20Possible%20Actions.pdf)

- **OHCHR** produced graphic doodling material targeting youth and promoting non-discrimination in **English, French, Amharic, Arabic and Portuguese**.



4. Capacity Building Training Programs – Webinars

- **OHCHR** organized a webinar on “COVID-19: Human Rights & Vulnerable Groups in the context on COVID-19 on **April 30, 2020**. The aim of the webinar was to discuss the human rights risks and opportunities in the context of COVID-19, address specific human rights impacts of COVID-19 on women in Ethiopia, mainstreaming human rights in all responses of the government and other actors as well as approaches towards working together to mitigate the human rights challenges of vulnerable groups in light of the pandemic. Participants included CSOs, NHRIs, HRDs, WHRDs and relevant Stakeholders including Government officials.
- **OHCHR** organized a webinar on “Women Human Rights Defenders Addressing SGBV during COVID-19 in East and Southern Africa on **May 5, 2020**. In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, this webinar brought together women human rights defenders and CSOs to discuss how COVID-19 has exacerbated SGBV, how they have adapted their responses to protect SGBV survivors amid restrictions on movement, and possible solutions to protect survivors during the pandemic and prevent violence in the long-term.
- **OHCHR** conducted a webinar on the “Introduction to Economic, Social & Cultural Rights” for CSOs, Human Rights Defenders, National Human Rights Institutions and relevant Stakeholders including Government officials on **May 8, May 21 & 22, 2020** in Ethiopia and Tanzania. The aim of this interactive webinar was to expand on the understanding of participants of their role in promoting and protecting ESCR in all contexts including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **OHCHR** organized a webinar on the “Introduction to Civil & Political Rights” on **May 12, 2020**. The aim of the webinar was to discuss and expand the understanding of CSOs, HRDs, NHRIs and other relevant Stakeholders including Government officials on their role in promoting and protecting civil and political rights in all contexts during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- **OHCHR** organized a webinar on “DEFENDING DURING COVID-19: Digital Security for Human Rights Defenders” for Human Rights Defenders in East and Southern Africa on **May 14, 2020**. The aim of the webinar was to shed light on specific digital security human rights concerns of human rights defenders including women human rights defenders related to COVID-19 and to discuss preventive and mitigating measures to minimize the risks to WHRDs work online, and to build on coping mechanisms for WHRDs.
- In collaboration with the Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FENAPD) and the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind (ENAB), **OHCHR** organized a joint webinar session on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ethiopia on **June 11 2020**. The interactive webinar sought to expand the understanding of CSOs, HRDs, NHRIs and other relevant Stakeholders on the role in promoting and protecting PWDs in all contexts.

5. Amplifying Key Messages on Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram)

- In the context of COVID-19, **OHCHR** continues to project key messages on COVID-19 and the important of mainstreaming #HumanRights in response plans.
- **Facebook: UNHumanRightsEARO**
- **Instagram: OHCHREARO**
- **Twitter: UNHumanRightsEARO**

***Check the pages out for content.**