

act!onaid



ActionAid Ethiopia
Annual Report
September 2021

Content

Our Identity	4
Message from the Country Director	5
Organizational Background	6
Operation Areas	10
AAE's theory of change (how change happens)	11
Operation Areas	10
Operation Highlights	13
<i>Priority 1</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Priority 2</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Priority 3</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Priority 4</i>	<i>29</i>
Learning and Reflection	33
Organizational priority	34
Accountability	35
Partnerships	37
Inputs and Financial Expenditures	39
Best Practices /Lessons Learnt	40
2021 Partners' Grant for Program Intervention	41

ACRONYMS

AAE	ActionAid Ethiopia
AAI	ActionAid International
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COVID	Corona Virus
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DA	Development Area
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPR	Emergency Preparedness & Response
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FTCs	Farmers' Training Centers
IGA	Income Generating Activities
LRP	Local Rights Program
NEWA	Network of Ethiopian Women Association
PLIP	People Living in Poverty
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RAC	Reflection Action Circle
RaDO	Rehabilitation and Development Organization
SAC	Saving and Credit
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperative
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SMCs	School Management Committees
RCWDO	Rift Valley Children and Women Development Organization
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' National Regional State
UCW	Unpaid Care Work





Our Identity

ActionAid is an international organization, working in 45 countries for social justice.

ActionAid Ethiopia, a member of ActionAid International Federation, is a Gender Justice poverty eradication, and good governance organization working to achieve gender equality and economic justice. In Ethiopia **ActionAid** works to build capacities to create people's agencies of critical mass of communities especially Women and Girls living in poverty and exclusion to fulfil their rights, ensure redistribution of resources and build their resilience. Our work helps people living in poverty to unleash their power and potential to transform their lives sustainably.

We prioritize to work with Women and Girls and their organizations, networks, civil society organizations, national and local government, and other allies to overcome gender injustice and structural causes of poverty. We engage at national level policy works to influence the agendas of women and girls to tackle gender injustice. And we connect our work from communities to national and international level by leading and actively engaging in



policy agenda for greater contribution towards a just, equitable and sustainable life of communities.

Guided by feminist lens and human rights-based principles and approaches, we seek to shift power, through empowerment, solidarity, policy influencing and the generation of alternatives to ensure that women and girls can enjoy a life of dignity and freedom from poverty. We build strategic alliances between Men and Boys; Religious and Traditional institutions to fight Gender Injustice and poverty. ActionAid Ethiopia will continue to be rooted in communities and engage nationally upholding our primary accountability to women and girls living in poverty and their agencies to challenge unequal power relations they face from household to the public spaces.



20M 
PEOPLE
requiring humanitarian
assistance

WE 
REACHED
8.7M (5,070,633 women
and girls)

In the year 2021, Ethiopia managed compounded humanitarian crisis that 20 million people requiring humanitarian assistance according to UNOCHA report.

ActionAid Ethiopia has been playing critical role in responding to the humanitarian need including provision of food, multipurpose cash, protection, and WASH and Non-food items (NFI) to the people in need particularly women and girls. Whilst responding to these immediate humanitarian needs, we made it not to lose our grip on our long-term development programs addressing the rights of women and girls and young peoples and their agencies through community structures that are their agencies

Apart from the actual program intervention ActionAid Ethiopia has been contributing meaningfully for the strength of the civil society role in various national and strategic issues and other strategic platforms.

During the year we reached a total of 8,698,304 (5,070,633 women and girls) people applying human right based approach.

We assume that we have made reasonable programmatic and resource shifts in all terms to align with the context our right holders were found in the concluded year, and we hope that peace will be restored throughout the country so that the focus will be mainly on development and building resilience of our communities.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for our supporters and donors and the solidarity our federation and Global secretariat to achieve what we anticipated. It is also imperative to emphasize that all what we achieved wouldn't have happened without the commitment of our communities, partners, the government and staff.

In Solidarity!
Tinebeb Berhane,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Organizational Background

Since 1989 ⁱⁿ Ethiopia

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) is a member of the ActionAid International Federation and registered in Ethiopia as an international development organization. AAE envisions A Just, Equitable and Sustainable Ethiopia in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty. It has been engaged in an integrated development programmes in Ethiopia since 1989 and has made significant contribution to the country's development for more than 30 years. It started its operation in Dalocha woreda of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State and in 2020 it has progressed to be an organization operating in six regional states, namely: SNNPRS, Somali, Oromia, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray. AAE, through its short-term and long-term right programs, has made significant contributions towards realizing a poverty-free Ethiopia where people can enjoy a life of dignity and prosperity.

Accordingly, ActionAid Ethiopia facilitates the implementation of long-term development programs at woreda level alongside other short-term projects operating beyond the target woredas. In order to ensure sustainability, AAE launched strong partnership and works with a range of players including, but not limited to, community based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academic and research institutions, universities, the media and networks along with critical engagement with government institutions to fight the structural causes of poverty which traced itself from power imbalance.

The funds that have been used for the year 2021 were retrieved from foreign sources. Some funds were lobbied from committed individual sponsors from United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Greek, and Brazil which constituted the lion's share of the total budget in 2021. Resources are also

being mobilized through raising high value and institutional funds by means of developing and marketing proposals to various sources such as bi-lateral and multilateral agencies, foundations/organizations, governments, and individual donors through affiliates in AAUK, AA Italy in a strategic partnership with AAE.

This report covers four priority areas including the theme youth and governance which came up following revision of our Country Strategy Plan V (CSP V). Following the opening-up of the legal space for Civil Society Organizations in 2019, AAE has been re-registered as a Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication Organization and reviewed its Fifth Country Strategy Plan (CSP V) which covers six years period 2018-2023. The review has resulted in strategic shifts of program priorities to include governance and youth. As per the reviewed CSP, AAE has four Program Priority Areas.

Long term Vision, Mission, Objectives



Priority 1:
Ensure the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's right to Economic Justice.



Priority 2:
Ensure good governance and increased civic participation for respecting rights of citizens and delivery of quality Gender-Responsive Public Services (GRPS)



Priority 3:
Strengthen rights to resilient livelihoods and promote climate justice.



Priority 4:
Drive transformative women-led community-based emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and the right to protection.



VISION- A Just, Equitable and Sustainable Ethiopia, in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and, freedom from poverty.

OUR MISSION- To achieve Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication, by working with Women and Girls, people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations, and supporters.



Long term Vision, Mission, Objectives

No	Program	Long term objective	Focus Areas
1	Women's Rights	Ensuring the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's right to Economic Justice	Focus Area 1: Ensure the protection and promotion of Women's and Girls' Rights from Violence and Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Focus Area 2: Ensure women's right to Economic Justice and Recognition, reduction, and redistribution of Unpaid Care Work (UCW)
2	Governance	Ensuring Good Governance and increased Civic Participation for respecting rights of citizens and delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS).	Focus Area 1: Ensure Good Governance for delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) and increased civic participation for respecting rights of citizens. Focus Area 2: Ensure the leadership and active engagement of young people in good governance, social change and democratic processes.
3	Resilient Livelihood and Climate Justice	Strengthening rights to resilient livelihoods and promote climate justice	Focus Area 1: Food sovereignty and agroecology. Focus Area 2: Climate Justice Focus Area 3: Women, Girls including young people's rights to Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources
4	Humanitarian Response	Driving transformative women-led community-based emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and the right to protection	Focus Area 1: Women led community-based protection and resilience in Crisis and the Right to Protection. Focus Area 2: Localization of humanitarian action and stronger accountability and quality to affected communities. Focus Area 3: Build on resilience of Women and Girls including young people to humanitarian crisis and disasters.

Table 1: Core priorities as per the Reviewed Country Strategy Plan (CSP)



Organizational values and Objectives

AAE is very much attentive and passionate to People Living in Poverty (PLiP) which consists of women living in poverty, children and youth who reside in rural and urban areas including persons with disabilities and primarily to respond to their right based needs and aspirations. It also closely works with institutions that have demonstrated commitment to the needs and aspirations of these segments of the community. The following are core of values of AAE in the process of determined to fulfil its vision and mission.

Our Values

Mutual Respect, requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion, will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Integrity, requiring us to be honest, transparent, and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgements and communications with others.

Humility, recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

Equity and Justice, requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, class, age, HIV status, disability, location, and religion.

Courage of Conviction, requiring us to be creative and progressive, assertive, and innovative - without fear of failure - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Independence, from any religious or party-political affiliation

Excellence, we work with a sense of professionalism to maximize high quality standards and value for money.



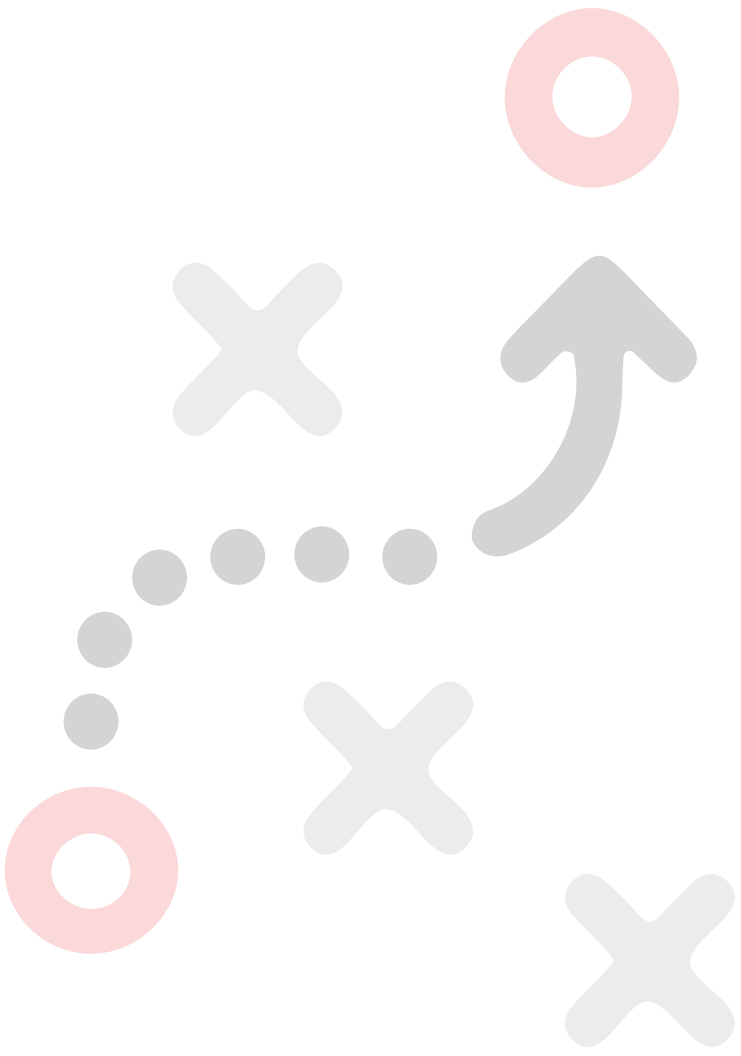
ActionAid Ethiopia is dedicated to applying feminist lens and values in our work, which will guide us in interpreting and advancing our mission.



Core strategies and approaches

AAE's work is basically guided primarily by principles of empowering people living in poverty, working in solidarity with those who share common purpose for collective action and impact and campaigning.





Participation

Capacity Building

Partnership and Networking

Knowledge Generation, Documentation, Sharing and Learning

Information Technology and Communication for Development

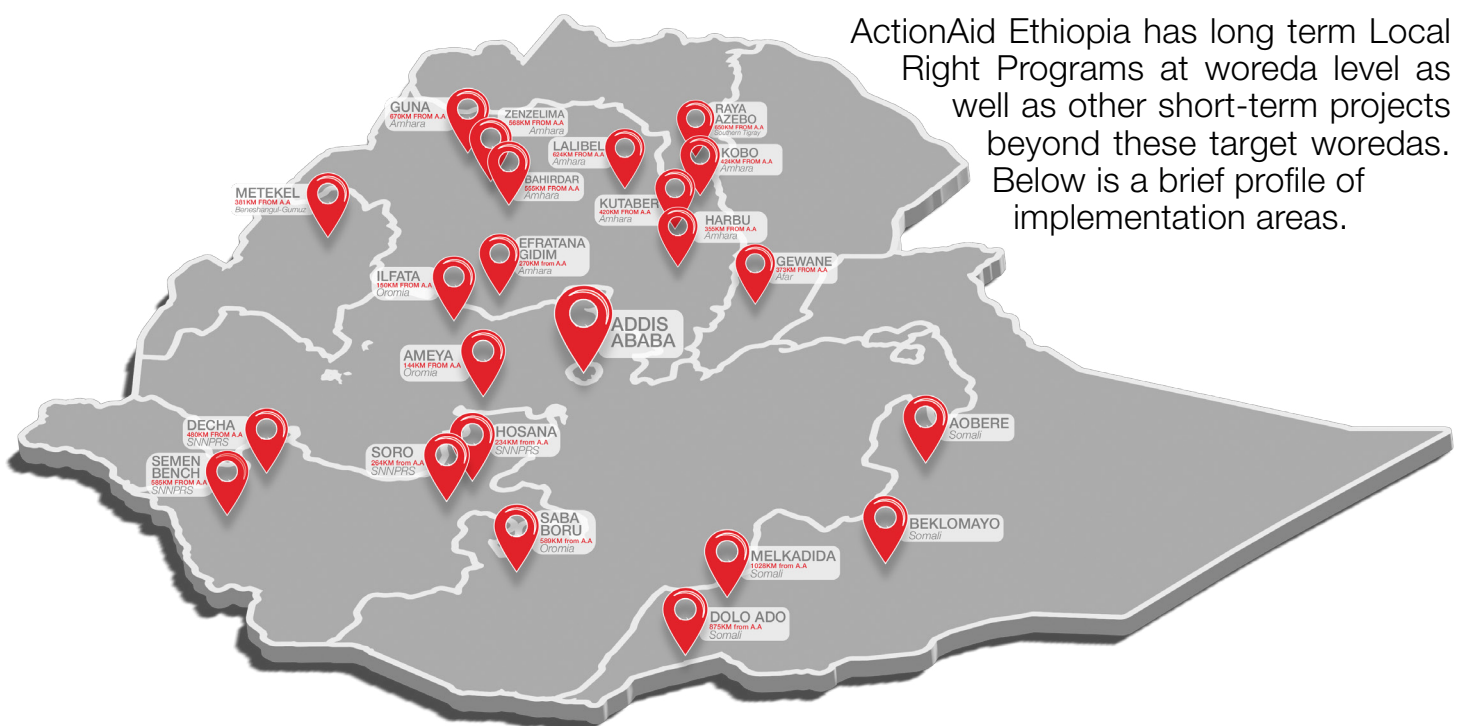
Mainstream the Views and Needs of Women, Children and Youth

Addressing Immediate and Basic Need

Advance Innovations and Alternatives

Core strategies and approaches

Operation Areas



ActionAid Ethiopia has long term Local Right Programs at woreda level as well as other short-term projects beyond these target woredas. Below is a brief profile of implementation areas.

No	Name of Local Right Program (LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Distance from Addis Ababa (Kms)
1	Addis Ababa			Addis Ababa	
2.	Saba Boru	1.Saba Boru 2.Agawayu	Guji	Oromia	589
3	Elfata	Elfata	West Shoa	Oromia	150
4	Ameya	Ameya	West Shoa	Oromia	144
5	Decha	Decha	Kafa	SNNPR	480
6	Semen Bench	Bench Sheko	Bench Maji	SNNPR	585
7	Soro		Hadiya	SNNPR	264
8	Hosana		Hadiya	SNNPR	234
9	Raya Azebo	Raya Azebo	Southern Tigray	Tigray	650
10	Bahirdar			Amhara	555
11	Guna	Debre Tabor	South Gondar	Amhara	670
12	Lalibela			Amhara	624
13	Kobo			Amhara	424
14	Zenzelima			Amhara	568
15	Efratana Gidim			Amhara	270
16	Kutaber			Amhara	420
17	Harbu			Amhara	355
18	Melkadida			Somali	1028
19	Beklomayo			Somali	877
20	Aobere			Somali	725
21	Dolo Ado			Somali	875
22	Metekel			Beneshangul Gumuz	381
23	Gewane			Afar	373

Table 2: ActionAid Ethiopia Operation Areas



AAE's theory of change (how change happens)

Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication will be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action to shift unequal and unjust power whether it is hidden, visible or invisible, from household level to local, national, and international levels. Empowerment of PLIP and exclusion is vital. People's organization through their agencies is critical to drive change that

will transform power when led by Women, Girls and Young People and their allies committed to achieve justice, equity, and sustainability. Collective efforts are more impactful when linked through solidarity and influencing between communities, their organizations, and other allies to strengthen the power of people to drive structural change.

ActionAid Ethiopia is both promoter and contributor to gender equality, good governance, and poverty eradication. We will be using our excellence of rootedness in communities and by closely working with organizations of PLIP and other allies for collective action.

AAE continued to build on its HRBA approach by focusing on empowerment, solidarity, and campaigning by influencing and building alternatives to enable communities especially focusing on Women, Girls and Young People living in poverty and their organizations to take collective actions to challenge patriarchy and power over at all levels to shift power and enjoy their rights.

ActionAid Ethiopia has planned and implemented several activities in 2021 as part of achieving fulfilling our theory of change and program approach. Our achievements in this reporting period are presented under each program priorities. Best impact and case stories of the year from LRPs are included under each section as evidence to the progress we are making towards achieving our higher-level mission objectives and delivery of our change promises.



Operation Highlights



Priority 1:

Ensure the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's right to Economic Justice.

Major Activities we accomplished under this Priority:

- Addressed structural causes of violence against women and girls (VAWG), deep-rooted harmful traditional practices, and enhance their economic well-being through Recognition, Reduction, and Redistribution of Unpaid Care Work in all our Local Right Programmes (LRPs) and in areas where there was displacement of communities due to man-made (like conflict in Northern Ethiopia) and natural catastrophes in all parts of the country.
- Established and strengthened Women Watch Groups (WWG), supported Girls' Clubs, availed Safe Houses where survivors of gender-based violence could get temporary shelter till they get legal solutions.
- Organized and strengthened women economic collectives to boost women's individual and collective capacities.
- Promoted and supported Adult Literacy Programmes in all our LRPs.
- Built evidence through research and used them for policy advocacy and campaigns.



- A total of **79,722 target right holders**, among which **67,013 were Female**, have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this objective and expended **ETB 43,120,307.11**.



■ Protecting Women and Girls from Violence ■ Against Women and Girls (VAWG)



- We, in collaboration with Debre Tabor University, provided **free legal and psycho-social support service (PSS)** to gender based violence (GBV) survivors who were contacted and supported by Guna Be-gemdir Women Watch Group. According to the Law School of DTU (Debre Tabor University), **325 cases of 287 women** were handled by the office. Psycho-social and counseling service given to **76 survivors** that were raped due to the conflict helped survivors come out from the trauma they were in and revive their former lives.
- To enhance the implementation capacity of Guna WWG committee members and law enforcement bodies, paralegal and GBV capacity building trainings were provided to a total of 101 (50 females) persons in three rounds.



IMAGE 1: Women Watch Group (WWG) office under construction in Guna LRP

- Guna WWG association, that was looted all its office equipment during the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, was strengthened and recovered from emergency through granting additional budget and substituting the looted office equipment and shelter room equipment including office running costs.



- International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in all Local Right Programmes with different awareness raising and attitudinal change activities. Unpaid Care Work (UCW) contests were organized between men participants to change the attitude of the participants. The winners and model women were awarded with energy saving stoves.
- Created safe school environment for **900 (472 females) students** in Atekana and Merabete primary schools by constructing library with furniture, reference books and construction of separate toilets for girls and boys. In addition, Merabete primary school students of kindergarten and grade one **89(40F)** accessed safe school environment with the support of AAE.
- Conducted consultative and advocacy meetings on **women's land rights and UCW** with stakeholders at zone and woreda levels in which **93(32F)** persons participated in two round sessions.
- Through diagnosis process, identified religious leaders as actors for preventing girls from child marriage and consultative meeting with **139(39F)** persons.



- Organized three days training for **100 male pastors and priests** that were selected by woreda peace and security office. The discussion was on how to manage and advise young people to ensure peace in the woreda and how churches could contribute to prevent harmful traditional practices (HTPs) and VAWG in the woreda.



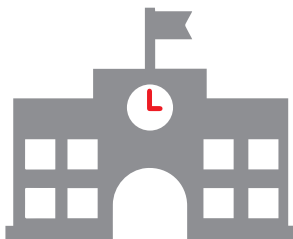
- Organized discussion session for **100 (50 girls)** young people drawn from five kebeles on **how to protect girls from HTPs and VAWG**. The youth also discussed on the needs and support they deserved from governmental and non-governmental organizations to get access for income generating activities in their area.

- Supported Semen Bench district court with furniture and stationary materials.
- Strengthened 100 (50 girls)** child parliament ministers in five schools by organizing three days refresh-er training.



- Gave training on **Life skills on peer pressure**, reproductive health care and communicable diseases to 90 school girls in collaboration with Genja health center.

- Made two discussion sessions on **referral mechanism** that was started last year to examine the existing condition of HTPs and VAWG in the woreda. **66 women kebele informants participated** in the discussions.



- Constructed a **block with four classrooms** for Gola primary school, and provided a hundred combined desks, four black boards, four tables and four chairs for teachers' room. With these supports, 480 (245 female students) and 30(6 female) teachers benefited clean and conducive school environment for teaching and learning environment. In addition to Gola primary school construction, one standard **library** and two **separate latrines** for girls and boys were constructed for Dakin primary school.

- Distributed **3600 sanitary pads** to 6 primary **school students** (Kasha, Muya kela, Wala, Genja, and Da-kin primary schools). Totally **900 girls** benefited from the service and attended their class properly.

- One **hand dug-well** was constructed for Dakin primary school and accessed clean water to 1127(489 girls) for drinking and hand washing in the school compound.



- AAE semen Bench LRP **awarded** solar panels and books to 120 academically **outstanding girls of primary schools** at the end of 2013 Ethiopian school year.

- AAE semen Bench LRP with the collaboration of semen bench woreda court provided awareness and furnished **separate women justice office** with 4 toy, 5 benches, one table with chair and provided stationary materials.

- Initiating **'Idir's to support survivors** under their area was carried out. The participants of the meeting were drawn from 8 kebele 25 Idir's and 16 kebele administrators total of 96 participants discussed on how Idir's and kebele administrative bodies can support survivor women and girls in their localities.
- **Discussion about GBV** and level of support at all levels was conducted with law enforcing bodies, WWG, girls club and office of women affairs. Representatives of boys group, girls club and WWG participated on refresher training and discussions.



- To **strengthen girls school performance**, high scoring girls and boys were awarded.
- **Evaluative workshop** was conducted to evaluate the **level of service and support to survivors** of GBV. A total of 107 people from government sector, law enforcing bodies, and CBOs participated.
- **96 'Abagedas'** (Oromo traditional leaders) and elders participated in day long discussion on traditional by-laws.
- **Regional level advocacy workshop** on women economic participation and benefit was conducted. A total of 107 people participated and regional level policy influencing committee comprising 11 members was elected from the participants.
- 85 members of **schoolboys'** group got 3 days training to support the **fight of GBV** in school.
- **24 people with disability established association** following the disability day celebration of previous year. They have also been provided with **training on basic business skill**.
- Relevant **women right policies** and Laws were **reviewed** to lay proceeding to prepare **Policy brief and fact sheets**.
- We made **final evaluation** of Women Right Programme II (WRP II) project that was implemented in Guna, Amhara region and Decha, SNNP region.
- **20 women led organizations** and women representatives were **trained on skills of advocacy** and monitoring of implementations of relevant policies and laws. CSOs working in Amhara and Oromia regions as well as National level CSOs participated on the training.
- **Capacity building training** was provided to 15 members of AAE staff and local partners RCWDO, PA-Det on M&E, best practice documentation, advocacy, and safeguarding policies and principles.
- **Experience sharing event** was organized for 21 participants (9 female) drawn from **Guji zone and Sebaboru** woreda community level WWGs members, relevant sector offices as well as **Southwest Shewa Zone and Elfeta woreda** sector offices have taken part on the event.
- **5 Functional adult literacy (FAL) centers** in the already existing CBO structures continued and 135 women have been graduated and were certified by woreda education bureau.

- **25 model Menja community women farmers**, kebele WWG leaders, kebele administer, kebele manag-er and 14 RAC facilitators have participated in the session where Bonga University shared the new farm-ing technology, new breed of planting and animal hybrid and related agribusiness issues.



- **A desk research** on the gaps in the existing National Legal Instruments in exploitation Child labour, abuse and human trafficking (**ECLAHT**) in Ethiopia was conducted which identified the **legal gaps** existing in the national legal framework vis a vis the international framework. This desk research has also included **policy recommendations and advocacy direction for CSOs** and other stakeholders for better protection framework for survivors of vulnerable groups particularly children and women.

- **Consultative meeting** with **labor associations**, federations and confederation of employees and employers on issues of exploitation, human trafficking and child forced and early marriage were carried out.
- Conducted **training for 34 (14 female) labor inspectors** working in Addis Ababa subcities.
- Two days capacity building training was conducted to **28 media professionals** on investigative journal-ism on Modern Slavery drawn from government and private owned media houses as well as independent journalists.
- **Referral linkage** was created through facilitating and organizing a meeting platform. A total of 15 participants attended the referral linkage discussion from Habru and Kutaber woreda stakeholder offices.



- 16 days of activism – in partnership with the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), with the focus on Female Workers rights to decent work as women economic empowerment (WEE) aspect – we had 2 days training and advocacy session with 50 participants drawn from the CETU management and members, other CSOs, human rights commission, and other government agencies.

- **Baseline assessment** has been finalized after thorough review.
- **Women Economic Empowerment (WEE)** policy and literature review done by Ethiopian Economists’s Association (EEA) draft submitted and to be validated.
- **WEE coalition ad hoc** working group met once and identify tasks and roles shared yet to continue the conversation.
- **Oromia region** advocacy initiative – proceeding consolidated and working task group mobilized to take action points forward for challenging hindering policy and legal aspects for women’s collectivization in saving and credit.

Case Story:

“I retook my land from my father in court”

“My name is Abeba Sisay, a mother of three children, and a divorced woman living in Kimir Dingay one of the Kebele/districts in Guna. My home kebele is Arga Didim, which I fled from in 2012 to Kimir Dingay to search for daily work for living. In 2011 my father snatched my land but after 6 months court case I was re-entitled to own my land by law, But, unfortunately my father and my brothers were unwilling to abide by the court decision and physically attacked me and forced me to leave the area. Then I started living in Kimir Dingay with my children to save my life by working as daily laborer. “

Time flew and Abeba’s life continued by accepting her fate as it is. In one of opportunistic days, Abeba heard about the opening of free legal aid center for women in her area. She went there and re-applied her case to the WWG office. Abeba continues, “After 10 years of silence, I got

courage to reclaim my land as per the decision from the court and applied my case to WWG. Immediately, the women referred my case to the legal expert and a month ago I retook my land from my father in front of the legal persons. I thank ActionAid and the WWG for letting me exercise my right. Now, I gave my land on lease to a farmer to harvest potato and barley on it. This happened after 10 years of deprivation and makes me very much happy that I could exercise my land ownership right with the support of WWG.”

Once she secured ownership right, Abeba followed in another case. *“I have proceeded to next step and apply to court for my past 10 years harvest compensation; that is why we met here today to receive my application from the WWG. I got hope from Debre Berhan University Law School legal advisor that I would for sure get my compensation,”* she concluded.



IMAGE 2: Abeba collecting application letter from WWG office to reclaim her past 10 years harvest compensation to take to the court.

- **White ribbon and International Women's Days** were celebrated in Semen Bench at woreda level and at three school in collaboration with Semen Bench Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office.
- Initiating '**Idir's**' (traditional community welfare and cohesion social structures) to support GBV survivors under their area was carried out in March 2021. The participants (a total of 96men) were drawn from 8 Kebeles, 25 'Idir's .
- **Discussions about GBV** and scale of support at all levels were made with **law enforcing bodies**, WWG, girls club and office of women affairs. A total of 116 people participated in these discussions. Representatives of **boys' group**, **girls' clubs** and **WWG** also participated refresher training and discussions.

■ Ensure women's right to Economic Justice ■ and Unpaid Care Work (UCW)



- 170 women living in poverty accessed livelihood alternatives through **revolving fund** and **sheep support**. Basic business skill and livestock management trainings were provided to the targeted women to enhance their skill and successfully **manage their business**. All targeted women became members of the women led saving and Credit Co-operatives (SACCO)s in their locality.
- **Cooperative Leadership training** was provided for 79(74Females) leaders of 5 women led SACCOs.
- **UCW was recognized, reduced, and redistributed** through regular reflection action circles (RAC), discussion, and awareness raising sessions were also organized during celebration of international women's day (IWD). Side by side to awareness raising sessions, 200 **energy saving stoves** were awarded to women who were **successful in their business**.
- Three **safe boxes** were purchased and delivered to three (Genja, Wala and Dakin) women SACCOs. Tables, benches, and chairs were purchased and distributed to six existing SACCOs.
- **Revolving fund of 832,000 birr** was distributed to 200 women organized under 6 women only SACCOs (Gola, Genja, Wala, Kasha, Muya Kela and Dakin kebele) to execute their small-scale businesses.
- 60 women SACCO leaders from 5 kebeles received **training on communication** skill to combat VAWG and HTPs.
- Orientation on **SNRP region's family law and the rural land administration proclamation** were carried out in collaboration with Semen Bench justice of-fice for ten newly established women watch groups (WWG)s represented by 77 women leaders and 30 (male) kebele administrative bodies.
- **Stakeholders and partners meeting** was carried out with the engagements of zone signatory sector of-fices, CBOs, and woreda administrative bodies represented by 50 (28 females) participants.
- Supported **Adult literacy** activities in 19 centres to more than 300 persons.

- A total of 52(2male) SACCO committee members have taken training on **coop-erative management and resource management**.
- **Demonstration of unpaid care work** was conducted on IWD. Recognition award was given to house-hold heads known for supporting their family by reducing, sharing domestic activities, and purchasing electric equipment to reduce burden.



IMAGE 2: Aynalem Donis in the school compound where she is a committee member

Case Story:

“No more crying in front of people”

Aynalem Donis is 34 years old and is one of directly targeted and impacted by ActionAid program intervention. Aynalem is married and a mother of three children(2female). Her two children are sponsored in ActionAid child sponsorship program. The family economy was depending on a small amount of husbands’ salary leaving their situation in poorest level.

When ActionAid targeted Aynalem and other women in the area for diverse empowering activities, she was economically inactive being a mere housewife. She has never participated on any public gathering, and she was very shy in the presence of other people due to

traditional influence. As her parents were divorced while she was a kid, and both were married to other persons, she was brought up by her grandmother in hardship situation. Though she joined elementary school on time, she was not attending attentively. Without going far, she was forced to quit schooling and got married.

ActionAid has screened women living in poverty like Aynalem and organized them many reflections action circles (RAC) groups. While analysing their situation in the RAC and looking for way out of the situation, the members of RAC practiced arguing capacity. The Reflection Action Circle (RAC) approach expects all participants to say their part during discussion which helps the women to break the bondage of shyness and silence.

As the result of their discussions in RAC, several women come together and get organized in saving and credit cooperative. This gives them opportunity to save their little amount of cash and to request loan from ActionAid and even from banks since they do have legal entity as formally organized group. Aynalem got loan through her organized SACCO and engaged in income generation activity, petty trade and selling of ‘Injera’. She also prepares different handicraft products and get income out of it to diversify her source of income.

“The discussion in RAC and different training by ActionAid has changed our per-

ception about poverty. I and others realized that poverty can be reverted, and we do have internal power to change situations. Now the perception we do have to ourselves and the perception of the community to women also have changed,” said Aynalem.

“Now I am someone who the community looks for different responsibility. I am a leading committee member of Soreti saving and credit cooperative, I am also the leader of village level Women Watch Group. I am fighting for the right of women at the court and police station when a woman or girl encounters right violation,” states Aynalem and continues remembering her past- “I was very shy to speak in front of other persons, even in front of my family. In earlier time, there was no such opportunity to express our feeling from the childhood. ActionAid knocked our house and pulled us out of the darkness and took us to brightness, I would like to thank this organization. I remember an event when I was forced to speak before court to request my share of inheritance but could not speak a word and rather started crying. Finally, my uncle spoke on behalf of me and got my share. But now, I am speaking for others.”

Aynalem has attended adult education facilitated by ActionAid and local government to improve her leadership and overall performance in her life. She has completed the adult education which was categorised in three levels.

By now she is very happy in leading her life with full of laugh. Her children are in school. Hawi, Aynalem’s eldest daughter, said that she is learning 7th grade and attending her education in a good manner. There is no burden of work at home; she has enough time to study, because in their home the redistribution of work is applicable, and everybody has a shared role.

According to Aynalem, her husband Mr. Kebede is very smart person for his family and the neighbours. He supports his family by working all the house chores including baking bread and other unpaid care work at home, which is not common to practice among men in the area.



IMAGE 5:
Aynalem, attending SACCO meeting where she is a member



Priority 2:

Ensuring Good Governance and increased Civic Participation for respecting rights of citizens and delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS).

This thematic focus area has been reinstated by AAE following the opening up of civic space through the CSO law revision in 2019. Following this, AAE repositioned itself starting from identifying itself as good governance promotor. As part of this restructuring, AAE focused in enhancing the engagement of young people particularly in bringing gender responsive public services and challenging injustice. Accordingly, it has had high appetite for partnership and resource mobilization in the year 2021 from its policy advocacy to community level operations.

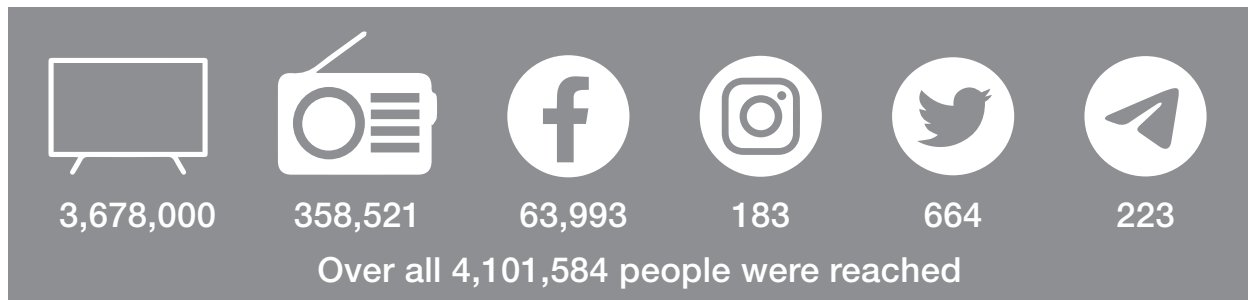
Through public message channels like social media, tv spots, billboard, and sonic screen messages, we were able to reach about totally **8,518,973 (4,941,004 Female)** young people and made them engaged with AAE's activities in the fiscal year. The total budget used was **2,552,910.20ETB**.

Major Accomplishments under this Priority:



- The **Climate Justice champions** were able to link their climate justice efforts with that of **national and global movements and initiatives**. They participated in the national "Green Legacy" movement, took part in platforms like United Nation's Climate Conference (COP26), CNN's #CalltoEarth Day, and Africa's "I am Generation Equality". They also joined a global network, Climate Smart Youth Agriculture Network (CSYAN).
- The Climate Justice Champions were able to **reach 100,000 plus** of Ethiopia's population to create awareness about climate justice issues especially the adverse impact climate change on women, and the need for active engagement of young people in the climate justice agenda for the security of their own futures.
- The Climate Justice Champions have got sufficient knowledge and capacity on climate justice issues and **effective advocacy strategies**. They collaborated with other climate stakeholders, both government and CSOs and have utilized multiple platforms to carry their message including (meetings, workshops, TV, radio, social media, etc).
- The advocacy directly linked to the government policy changes and the Climate National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which includes 6 intervention strategies that directly address the **issues/impact women face during climate change/ disasters**. Climate justice advocates through this project have also utilized multiple media platforms, digital and traditional, and reached more than 3,005,538 people and raise awareness about climate justice in Ethiopia.

- Young women were able to advocate for climate and gender issues on multiple platforms.
- Young women are connecting their advocacy movement with regional and global movements.
- Through three social media platforms, 2 radio channels, 3 TV programs Climate Justice Champions were empowered to take an active leadership role and inspire others to engage in climate justice issues. *The media reaches we achieved are: Television (3,678,000) + Radio (358,521) + Facebook (63,993) + Instagram (183) + Twitter (664) + Telegram (223) = 4,101,584 people.*



- We developed a White Paper under the title **“Multi-sectoral Impact and Response Assessment of COVID-19 on young people in Ethiopia”** as part of our policy enthusiasm to cover “COVID 19 impact in livelihood and employment, Gender Responsive Public service (GRPS), Civic Participation and State Accountability and Climate Justices and the steps expected from the state (government) in supporting recovery from the impact”



IMAGE 5: Young girls who took training on Girl-led Research and conducted research on Impact of COVID 19 on Young Girls in four districts of Addis Ababa.

- After the research was disseminated with those stakeholders, different media engagement was employed to advocate on the research result and to inform policy makers on how the pandemic impacted the lives of the young people. TV- spot with animated video was produced and the spot has also transmitted via four tv stations. In addition to that panel discussion was televised with two young women who participated in the research process and our partner TAYA Manger. From the TV spot with the selected four TV channels totally more than **3,593,4442 population has been addressed.**



- We applied media advocacy with the panel discussion and the TV spot and the advertisement that has been posted from the billboard and the Sony screen which is located around Meskel Square which is more accessible for most of the community and visible for the policy makers too. From the animated video post from the street screen, it is estimated that 1,919,999.00 population has been addressed.
- Different capacity building training were provided for 44 (6 male) young people, on the topic of basic re-search skill training, advocacy and campaign, climate justice concept and life skill and leadership training.

Case Story:

We realized our capacity to do everything when we got the opportunity”

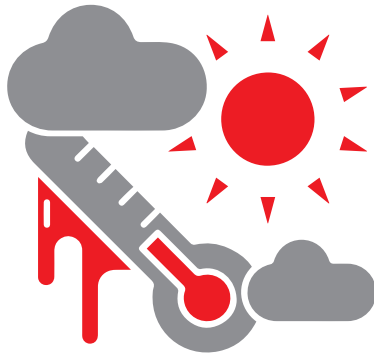
Tigist Desta is 25 years old and have 1st degree in software engineering. She lives in southwest Shewa, Ameya, which is one of AAE’s Local Right Program. She explained the problem, her involvement in the project and its impact. In our community young people did not get the attention from the government. We never involved in developing the government policies and practice or to review those policies and provide our input.

“Since I joined this project, I could realize my power to change everything together with my teams. At the beginning, 30 of us (young women) were organized and received different capacity building training human rights-based approach (HRBA), Feminist Transformational Leadership, and the concept of climate justice. After taking the training, we could reach more than 200 young women, to mobilize more young women to advocate on the climate justice issues and any issue that affects the lives of young people in general and the lives of young women in particular. It was great opportunity for us to get the chance to review 10 years development plan and provide our asks for the government stakeholder.



IMAGE 5: Tigist, 25, while she is presenting her learning through pilot climate justice project at the time of project learning workshop.

It was really a great chance for us to deliberate on the government plan; and it also gave us the opportunity to show our capacity for the government stakeholder. When we presented our asks after reviewing 10 years development plan, they were surprised by our capacity and took note and promised to review it accordingly. We realized our capacity to do everything when we got the opportunity. Thanks for this project it helped us to see our capacity and I am sure I and other young women organized in this project can bring change in any social, economic, and political issue in our country.”



Priority 3:

Strengthen rights to resilient livelihoods and promote climate justice.

AAE has been working with Women and communities to have transformed institutions and structures that strengthen communities’ ability to cope with, mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change on their food systems and livelihoods. To enhance this objective, AAE has identified three focus areas:

- I. Women and communities ensured their food sovereignty and resilience to climate change by adopting agroecology practices and principles and influencing policies and/or programs,*
- II. Women and communities are able to influence policies and plans that help reduce climate change impacts and ensured their needs and rights, and*
- III. Women and communities get organized, influence decisions and actions on issues of environment, natural resources and local development and are able to access and control over land and other natural resources.*

During the reporting period, we reached a total of 18,775 (9937Female) that benefited from the activities implemented under this program priority in Guna and Ameya LRPs (districts).

■ Strengthen rights to resilient livelihoods and ■ promote climate justice.



Focus Area 1: Agroecology and Food sovereignty

Major Accomplishments:

- 3 days (2 days of theoretical knowledge and a day of practice) **training was provided on apple care and management skills for 75 women** living in poverty in Guna LRP. We organized women who got the apple seedling last year and gave them follow up training. The women’s management capacity was enhanced and their hope for fruiting is now high.

- To **create Model women** in fruit and vegetable, we organized 2 days **experience sharing** program in nearby woredas for 121(26) women farmers, kebele and woreda stakeholders both in Ameya and Guna LRPs. *The program mainly focused on fruit and vegetable production and integrated watershed management best practices and ways of working. The program inspired the women to strengthen their effort and plan to produce beyond their household consumption.* The targeted women planted different types of high-land and lowland fruits according to their agronomy. Capacity building training and agricultural tools were also provided to strengthen their effort. On the other hand, in collaboration with Ameya woreda agricultural office, three days training (2 days theoretical and 1 days practical) on farmer's field schools (FFS) training was conducted on vegetables and fruit production following the training 12 FFS (farmers field schools) established with total members of 412 and continues their education for 4 months with helps of RAC facilitators.



- A total of 6 days training in two rounds were provided to 96(75 F) women living in poverty and their allies on **agroecological practices**, CRSA/environmentally fit crop production techniques and pre- and post-harvest agronomic and protection factors affecting productivity, which enhances crop productivity. According to focus group discussion conducted with target women, **85% of the women practiced the knowledge and techniques they got from the trainings. They have reported increment in yearly harvest** and used by provided airtight bag to keep their crop from loss.
- Women and other stakeholders in Ameya were inspired by the program and were able to produce/**harvest more product from small plot** and gained income of 6,500 - 12,800 birr per plot from 200square metre. Vegetable seeds and **training on nursery** were provided for women living in poverty. According to the assessment conducted on 12 FFS, 9 of them were found to be very productive.
- AAE In collaboration with Ameya Animal husbandry and health office facilitated three days training to 123 (6 F) women living in poverty and for RAC facilitator on **poultry and sheep rearing and managements**. Following the training, **800 three-month-old chickens** (bo-vine browns egg type breed) were **distributed to 67 women** (12 chicken per individual). Based on the assessment, 50% distributed hens started laying of egg and 95% of them easily adapted with the environment.

- As an introduction to **post harvest techniques**, Guna LRP in collaboration with Lidet cooperatives union and agriculture office **anti-weevil airtight bags** were purchased and **provided to each kebele multi-purpose co-operatives (MPC)**. The MPCs distributed the bags with cost sharing payment method to maintain the fund and regularly avail the bags to community in need. Totally 1300 airtight bags were purchased and addressed 650 community members.
- **Lime provision** was used as a strategy to fix soil acidity problems in the high land Kebeles of Guna/ Tedo Mender and Wikro/ Teddo Meneder. The provision covers and suffice to 13 ha of land of 44 households out of which 3 are women headed. **The farmers that used the treatment reported an improvement in their land productivity.**

Case Story:

Production of vegetable has pulled out women from poverty vicious circles.

Berhane Galana, 42, is a resident of Bero Saallan kebele. She is married and a mother of 5 of which 2 are females. She did not participate on extension service provided in her kebele because the approach was focused only on male depriving Berhane and other women living in the kebele the right to benefit in economic and social service. To change the situation of women living in poverty, ActionAid Ameya LRP organized them as RAC and trained them on FFS approach. The training was focused on practical skills of production on small plot (200m²) at back yard.

Improved vegetables seeds like onion /Adama red/, tomato, beat root and carrot was supplied for the group. The group saw the seed on small nursery bed and transplanted to 200 m² of back yard and the learning groups came to the plot once in 15 days for four months to follow the change on the plot. As a member of the group, Berhane benefited from the input supply and training provided and started to work on her small plot of land. She used compost and manure to fertilize her land and as a result, she saved 1,500-birr fertilizer cost and was able to produce 7 quintals of tomato, 3 quintals of onion and three quintals of beat root from small plot of land. In total she could get a gross income of 10,000 birr which is unexpected from such small plot. Berhane says, *“If I used the land for maize or teff, I wouldn’t have earned more than 1 quintal which is estimated to worth 3500 birr. In addition, I have got 12 chickens from ActionAid and they’ve started laying egg which increased my income from the sale of the egg. I do have plan to produce more on my small land and ensure food security in my home and community”*

“The participation in different training and RAC group, changed my and my family’s life and we’ve started sending our children to school” “I would like to thank ActionAid for awakening us from our sleep and open our eyes for life improvement,” Berhane concluded.



IMAGE 5:
Berhane explain about her best practice on Farmers’ Field Day on her plot.



Priority 4:

Drive transformative women led community based emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and the right to protection.

Ethiopia is under difficult condition due to multiple man made and natural induced disasters. Among others conflict, drought, flooding, desert locust and epidemics are the major hazards which affect millions of people across the country. As a result of the multiple hazards mainly the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, the humanitarian needs have tremendously increased in the country, which exceeds 20 million people, and has deepened existing/protracted vulnerabilities.

ActionAid Ethiopia is one of the humanitarian actors in the country and has quickly responded to the humanitarian crisis by mobilizing available resource from donors


such as IHART/DPRF, Start Fund, ALborda, Medicaor, DAP' and internal sources to address multiple crises in different parts of the country mainly in **Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Benishangul Gumz.**


Our humanitarian signatures, transformative women led humanitarian response and shifting the power to the local actor, transparency, accountability and ensuring protection are enabling to the communities to actively participate in the humanitarian response process and harnessing the conventional way of humanitarian response in the complex situation especially in the IDP sites.

Hence, ActionAid Ethiopia mobilized resource from donors' and internal sources and responded to these multiple crises Conflict, COVID-19, Drought, Flood, etc.

ActionAid Ethiopia reached a total of 80,814 (52,078 Female) people affected by different crisis with Food, Multipurpose Cash, Protection, Wash/NFI and COVID-19 controlling, and prevention materials as indicated below:

1  **14,886 (8,875 Female)**
People supported with food (Wheat flour and oil)

2  **24,042(12,451 female)**
People supported with Multipurpose Cash.

3  **10,611(9,051 Female)** Peo-
ple supported with protec-
tion (dignity kits, training on
GBV, and support for GBV
survivors)

4 

9,382(7,905 Female) People
supported Wash/NFI

5 

29,300 (19,005 Females) support-
ed with different PPE and hygiene
materials through 7 institutions...

Emergency food support to people affected by different crisis

- ActionAid Ethiopia has been the first responder to the desert locust and conflict affected communities in **Southern Tigray and IDPs**, in Afar region Gulina and Yallo woredas. Accordingly, to save lives of the people and protect their livelihoods, ActionAid provided food mainly **wheat flour and edible oil for 14,886 (8,875 Female)** who were affected both by the conflict and the desert locust.

Case Story:

“The rain condition was relatively better, and the performance was good, but desert locust invaded and destroyed the crops”

Kaleita Wendim is 35 years old living in Korme Kebele, Raya Azebo Woreda of Southern Tigray, she is a mother of 4(2 females), their age ranging between six and eighteen. All her children go to school. Kaleita possesses 2 hectare of farmland planted sorghum and *teff*.

From the total of planted land, she could harvest only 8.5 quintals of crop. When asked how she happened to collect this little yield, Kaleita explains, “the rain condition was relatively better, and the performance was good, but desert locust invaded and destroyed the crops when I was getting prepared to harvest it. Moreover, all the harvested crops, my two-classroom house and all household materials in the house were ruined and burned during the conflict between the federal and regional governments. Thanks to God, luckily myself and my children are alive as we fled from our home as it was within the war area.

Nine quintals of food is needed for survival of Kaleita’s family. This is merely for food consumption. The family also needs other expenses such as additives of food, clothes, shoes, health expenses, educational expenses etc. As she was left with nothing due to the conflict, she is now dependent on humanitarian aid.

Due to the food gap of the Kaleitas’s household, she was categorized under 5 family size targets to be supported with wheat flour for a month. Kaleita has explained the situation by saying as following; “Thanks to ActionAid, I have got 75 kilograms of wheat flour. This is critical and indispensable support for my family. I will use the flour to bake Ambasha (local bread) and cook Genfo (thick porridge) which are favorite food of our community.”

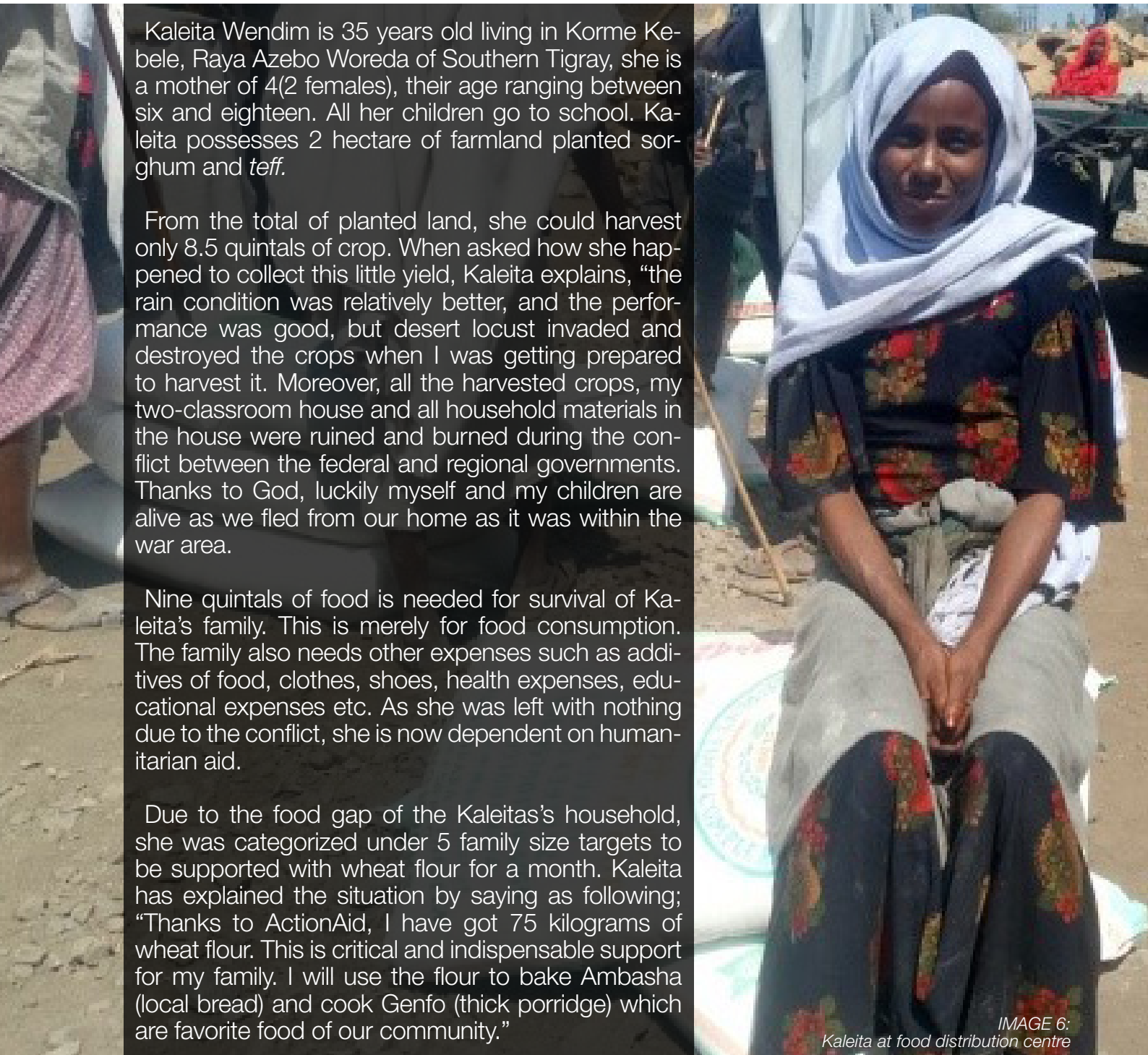


IMAGE 6:
Kaleita at food distribution centre



Multipurpose cash support

The **Northern Ethiopia conflict** has affected several aspects of people's lives and livelihoods, their capabilities, assets, and activities required for means of living. Above all, the people displaced from their home due to the conflict have **escaped empty-handedly** exposing them to different challenges.

Therefore, after making **rapid assessment** in different internally displaced persons (IDP) sites in Amhara, (**Dessie, Debrebirhan and Zenzelma**) and in Afar region (**Gulina, Aura, Ewa and Chifra**), multipurpose cash was identified as the best option for the response as it gives them different options to purchase essential livelihood assets, to a range of food commodities, and to non-food needs such as kitchen utensils, hygiene items, and clothes as per their priority needs.

- We supported 25,935 people (13,587 Female) in Zenzelma, Dessie and Debrebirhan IDP sites and in Chifra IDP site to people displaced from their place and temporarily sheltered in the aforementioned places.

To ensure safety and security the multipurpose cash distribution was done in two modalities: 1- direct transfer to their bank account for those who have already saving accounts and 2- mobilize bank officers to the IDP center and to pay cash for those who do not have bank accounts

Case Story:

“I immediately withdrew birr 1,200 cash from my account which ActionAid deposited in and bought medicine and food for my daughter”

Ayehu Getaway (40) is temporarily living in Zenzelima internally displaced persons' (IDP) camp with her chronically sick daughter. She is a farmer; her husband is serving in the military. Like other farmers in her area, Abergelle district of Waghemira Zone, the women are in charge of taking care of their families since the men are on military assignments. Describing the situation, she says, *“when the situation was not safe to stay at our home, I and five of my children moved to Ebinat IDP center. My elder daughter was diagnosed with hypertension when she was at home. At Ebinat IDP center, we were supported with nothing except the shelter.”*

While expressing her thankfulness to ActionAid for the support it gave her, she continued explaining the whole situation: *“Due to the tension and discomfort there, my daughter's blood pressure became high (210/110). The civil servants in the camp collected support from individuals and raised birr 1,400 to pay for her medical service. I tried my best to get*



proper medical service at Bahir Dar, capital city of Amhara regional state, but it was difficult since I had no money at hand. The worst case was I didn't receive any kind of support in the IDP till ActionAid came to us with cash. When I received the cash, I was relieved and was able to buy what I wanted. I immediately withdrew birr 1200 cash from my account which ActionAid deposited in and bought medicine and food for my daughter. Now I can prepare food for her

as per doctor's prescription and send some amount of money, birr 500 for my other daughters in Ebinat IDP camp. I have no words to express how delighted I am and simply praise the organization and its staff for giving lifesaving response from Almighty God. IT pulled me out from darkness now my little daughter also get sleep easily but in then days I used to bit her to sleep with her empty stomach."



Protection support

- During humanitarian crisis women and children are among the most vulnerable community segments that need protection from GBV and safety and security including hygiene. Therefore, to address the problem ActionAid considers protection intervention as one of its major humanitarian responses components.
- On top of providing critically needed/ required materials (Dignity kits, laundry soap) to girls and women, we provided training and orientation on our SHEA and Safeguarding policies to the targeting committees led by women and relevant stakeholders involved in the humanitarian response.
- We gave protection support to 10,611(9,051Female) with dignity kits, training on GBV, and support for GBV survivors).

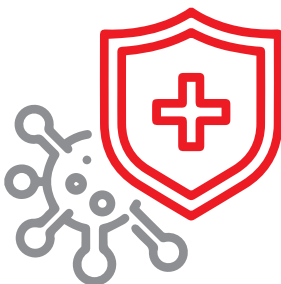


WASH/NFI

- 9,382(7,905 Female) persons were supported with different Wash/NFI Wash/NFI (water, sanitation, hygiene, and non-food items such as Jerricans, water tankers, blankets, and plastic sheet.

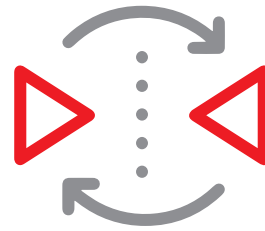
During the year Ethiopia was challenged by multiple crisis and the people mainly people living in poverty were exposed to critical food shortage and their means of income or livelihood was affected. Therefore, to save lives of the people and protect their livelihoods ActionAid has provided different humanitarian supports in different areas across the country.

COVID-19 prevention and control



Since the Corona Virus case was reported in March13, 2020 in the country, ActionAid was supporting vulnerable communities and local government institutions who we work with in the remote areas (Local Right Programs) and those with limited access to information and services which makes AAE among the first responder to the pandemic in these remote areas. Accordingly, for this reporting period AAE has supported 7 institutions with PPE and other related materials purchased with a total Birr of 1.900,000 and about 25,000 people benefited from these supports.

Learning and Reflection



From all what we implemented in the concluded year, we could learn that:

- Improving Communication increases transparency.
- Promoting communication and coordination institutionally is vital.
- Leveraging partnership helps to better achieve objectives.
- Women can perform well if properly supported to be organized for their development.
- School clubs and WWG proper linkage and coordinated work can foster the elimination of GBV/HTPs in the intervention areas.
- The support of governmental organization increases when there is good implementation of projects.
- Community can work on GBV/HTP reduction if ownership and capacity are enhanced.
- Projects are effective if they are coordinated, and ownership enhanced from the start.
- Proper documentation of each process and implementation output is crucial to timely communicate and share to partners, and stakeholders.
- Solidarity among women has multi directional impact.
- Creating free space for women through different women group and RAC has contributed for change.
- Adult education has a great contribution in changing life of women.
- ActionAid's participatory approach can be used as good learning in changing the community.
- Since HTP is deep rooted tradition, coordinated approach with elders, traditional leaders, and religious leaders paves the way to bring change.
- Before economic intervention, giving attention to mental change is very important to bring the intended women empowerment.
- Evaluate and learn from experience.

Challenges we faced

- Behavioral change takes time and multi directional targeting.
- There is still rent seeking behavior among some members.
- There is observed difference among members. Some fully empowered to describe everything while few of them need further work.
- There is still rent seeking behavior among some members.
- Child education is still observed as a gap that needs more work.
- Though women whose husband changed were able to move forward in their empowerment, there are still who are facing challenge at home.
- There is fear on men side about women empowerment.
- Adult education lacks coordination among all partners.



Organizational priority

DEEPEN THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

- Targeting successfully identifies women living in poverty and enables to organize them in interest group to produce vegetables and different seedlings. Supported women living in poverty to organize in economic group like saving and credit cooperatives helped women to improve their lives.
- Strong partnership has been created with concerned government sectors at all levels and with community groups.
- To ensure accountability and transparency LRP's have displayed activity plan and accomplishment at the public site in government compound and LRP compound in addition to regular report submission.
- The program engagement and communication were not left to AAE staffs, rather the CBOs like WWGs effectively created close communication and partnership with traditional institutions and government sectors to strengthen the fight against GBV.
- The partnership was strengthened with traditional community leaders' Abagedas', the traditional insurance institution Iddir, and the local government and WWGs. As a result, the fight against women right deprivation has brought fast change and every member of community started to raise GBV and right violation as illegal act instead of rationalizing the act in the name of cultural practice.
- The other learning we got from the LRP program intervention was that the power of collective action has been revealed. GBV and women right violation in the district has come to be changed over time as women living in this situation organized in women watch group, in schoolgirls' club and women saving and credit cooperatives to challenge the situation. As this solidarity is influencing the duty bearers, the situation is improving over the years. Law enforcing bodies have started implementing the law instead of ignoring the criminal act on women and girls.
- Now women are exercising their right to engage in economic activity and decision making on family resources. They are also able to refuse the tradition that deprives women's right to public participation. **Unlike the preintervention situation where there was problem to get a single woman in public gathering, nowadays women are being active participants and part of decision makers.**

Accountability

ActionAid's accountability framework contributes towards more tangible, measurable, and thus improvable intervention. It also enhances ownership of programs by relevant stakeholders and thus ensures sustainability.



PRINCIPLE I: **Participation and inclusion**

The CBOs participation in every decision making has been witnessed to better serve the community. The women led CBO leaders have been influential in addressing the message to their fellow women during saving and credit times, marketing, and other socialization events. The CBO members recommended to address their leadership who are exposed to the pandemic due to their responsibility. As the result ActionAid has supported all CBOs with preventive material and detail education about the pandemic with special attention to their leaders.

The PRRPs and CBOs engagement in continuous discussion again informs what is working and what is not. The RAC graduates who are assumed to be skillful in business management and who joined SACCOs have been identified yet lacking skill and not being effective in their business. Accordingly, taking them back to engage in the continuous empowerment discussions and functional adult literacy programs to address specific challenges and track changes is necessary.

Inclusion – AAE's feminist intersectionality principle has been deepening its interventions to reach the most disadvantaged groups. ActionAid's beneficiary targeting which starts from people living in poverty and exclusions reaches out those outcasted ones. accordingly.



PRINCIPLE II: **Evaluation and learning**

There is worda technical team from different sectors to monitor different projects by ActionAid regularly. the members learnt from ActionAid program approach how regular and coordinated monitoring can bring fast and quality program accomplishment which was not common before.

- The participatory PRRP among the different community right holders and their agencies, partner organizations and government signatory sector offices
- Regular government monitoring and evaluation visit which brings the opportunity to scale up best practices.
- Collecting case stories, conducting key-informant interviews and focus group discussions with women targets and discussion with RAC facilitators helps to harvest feedbacks and intervention impacts.

- Supervising by local area coordinators and head office program team and ensures quality.
- Regular meetings among local and national program teams with senior management team (NPAT and NRPAT) to follow up annual program and project implementations are best learning spaces.
- AAE's team engagement with national key actors and its global federation are again spaces for learning and sharing of evidence that have been going at grass roots level and inform program and policy formulations.



PRINCIPLE III: **Transparency**

AAE's HRBA approach is also a means to ensure its transparency. It submits its regular plan and reports to the relevant actors, by providing our planned budget to partners, posting on transparency board and by presenting reports to concerned community and government bodies.

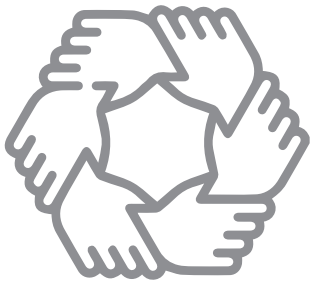
Each community member can access ActionAid's planned activity from transparency board that has been displayed in government compound and in ActionAid LRP office compound to ensure transparency and accountability to people living in poverty and stakeholders.



PRINCIPLE 4: **Complaints and resolutions**

ActionAid sets complaint response mechanisms and ensures such mechanisms are accessible to communities through posting in visible areas at its offices. Moreover, the PRRP sessions also served to raise complaints if any and solution and program adjustments implemented. Accordingly, in the reporting period, complains received from community/partners directly in our offices, through VCFs and in technical and coordination meetings. Some have got Management's attention and correction measures taken. ActionAid also has the Sexual

Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse, and child safeguarding Policy. The policies are translated into local languages and posted in visible areas of offices. Such policies also constitute any partnership and consultancy agreements. Some areas of complaints have been delaying in agricultural tool provision than the preferable season; and complains in targeting right holders for humanitarian aid. The complaints have been managed from local level focal persons to the management based on their nature.



Partnerships

AAE uses the HRBA principles as central approach. The principle of partnership in the form of HRBA and its Partnership policy are geared towards its interactions with others. In the first place the communities it worked with are number one partners as key stakeholders. Partnership building is also being practiced by all operation level teams and the management of AAE with all concerned bodies. At grassroots level, AAE's partnership was strengthened with woreda, zonal and region WCA, education, health, agriculture, disaster risk management and livestock sectors.



Moreover, AAE is linking with public universities' community engagement in areas of collaboration like legal aid and psychosocial supports to sustain its interventions and build capacities of CBOs. This helped timely and smooth implementation of projects, timely solution provision and sharing of information and resources.

At national level, AAE's partnership has increased amazingly including being preferred partner among key gender justice, good governance, and development actors. It has designed its partnership approach in a way to build on its 4 program thematic priorities. Local human rights/ women rights organizations, their networks, young people and their agencies, international NGOs, Humanitarian clusters, and CSOs Council have been learning and sharing partnership platforms for AAE in the year. Moreover, its thematic engagement with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth and UN agencies has been a space to deepen its works, protection priorities, intersectional feminist analysis, and HRBA.



PARTNERS' CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2021, AAE supported 12 local partner organizations technically, financially and in kind in its development and humanitarian aid namely. These were: Rift Valley Children and Women organization; Relief and Development Organization (RaDO), Redeem the generation(RTG), Union of Ethiopian women and children's Association(EWCA), PADet, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association; UEWCA, Redeem the Generation; Young Women Christian Association (YWCA); Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations(CEHRO), Emmanuel Development Association(EDA), Population health and Environment Consortium(PHE), Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA),Network



Ethiopia Women Association (NEWA) and Ethiopian Economic Association. In addition, AAE responded to the Federal Government’s call for solidarity in responding to humanitarian crises.

AAE has been closely working with the partners through national planning session, holding consultative meetings, conducting national PRRP meetings, and collaborative fund raising. In addition, AAE has supported partners in handing over of projects and establishing new partnerships for fund raising and program delivery.



COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY



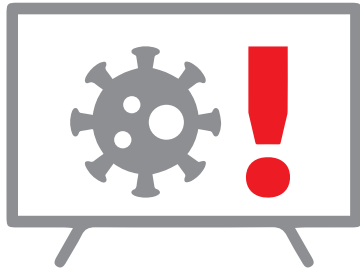
As an instrument of living our core principle of transparency and accountability, we communicated our works to our development and humanitarian partners and stakeholders that include donors, local implementing partners, government, and right holders through different media outlets, mainly electronic and social media.

Our communication is not merely a platform to inform what we do but also it is a platform we advocate for better policies and practices. In 2021, we focused on the impacts of COVID 19 and climate change on society. Thus, we facilitated and broadcast:

A- Panel discussion on:



- The impact of COVID 19 on the lives of young people
- The impact of COVID 19 on the lives of women
- Climate justice and its impact on the lives of young people



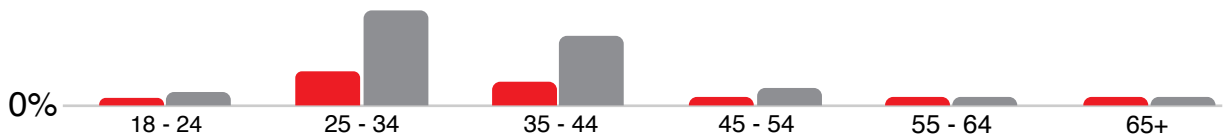
B- TV spot on the impacts of COVID 19 on the lives of young people

The channels we used to transmit our message on the stated topics were 4 tv stations (FBC, Walta, Arts Tv, and EBS TV) and two big-sized sonic screens locations, namely Meskel Square and Bole Medihaniyalem area estimated to have audience reach of more than 8.5 million in total. We also re-broadcast these spots on our Facebook page.

Facebook Page Like

Audience
2,411

Age & Gender



Using our Facebook page that has more than 2000 followers, we also posted regional, national, and international activity updates on gender justice, climate justice, and economic justice, good governance, and young people engagements.

AAE’s contribution in strengthening the wider CSO Sector

ActionAid Ethiopia has been serving the wider CSO sector through its Country Director Tinebeb Berhane. Among others AAE is serving as **board member** of Agency for Civil Society Organization (**ACSO**), Vice President of Ethiopian Civil Society Council, **Public Diplomacy** committee member of GERD secretariat, Steering Committee of **HINGO** and contributed to CSO mapping exercise funded by EU as reference group.



Inputs and Financial Expenditures

Financial input

During the reporting period **Birr 127,216,795.11** of was the total budget. Out of this, **15,582,025.68 birr** for administration and **Birr 111,634,769.43** for program expenses were incurred. Almost **61%** of the program cost was covered by the fund secured from donors while the remaining **39%** was by regular program budget.

Summary of 2021 Expenditure

Budget Summary	
Descriptions	YEAR 2021
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	111,634,769.43
TOTAL ADMIN BUDGET	15,582,025.68
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	127,216,795.11
Program budget / OPERATIONS %	88%
ADMIN COST %	12%

Human resource

The organization has **44 full time staff (36.4 % women) for the 2021**. These include program, project and administrative staff at field offices and Head offices.

Best Practices / Lessons Learnt

The following are some among many best practices that AAE applies as its implementation strategy, ensuring community & partners’ engagement and participation and guarantees ownership of the gains from different intervention:



Empowering and promoting women leadership:

Putting people living in poverty (PLIP) first, solidarity with PLIP, advancing women’s rights and promoting women leadership are among one of the signs that AAE must scale up to the wider nation among its best practices. AAE has engaged, empowered, and promoted women leadership in most of its project activities like SACCOs, WASH committees, unions, and other cooperatives, during Humanitarian Response and Women Watch Groups etc.

Accountability and transparency in targeting and distribution of humanitarian assistances:

Action Aid Ethiopia carries out targeting in a community based and participatory way, which ensures accountability and transparency. To achieve this ActionAid Ethiopia carries out the targeting with the community representatives selected by the community themselves and post the lists of selected right holders at public places in the kebeles, where everybody can see them and present complaint if they have any. There are also complaint handling committees all women

composed of independent groups which collects the complaints arising in the process of rightholders’ targeting and distribution and reports to the concerned staff. In this process, ActionAid ensures that women are actively participating and participate in the humanitarian response in different roles starting from targeting, distribution and taking role in the community level complaint handling processes.

Public Transparency Boards:

All the plans and performance in terms of activities and budget and organizational updates are posted in public transparency boards fixed at woreda centers and in ActionAid LRP office to ensure transparency and accountability to people living in poverty and stakeholders.



Periodical PRRPs:

AAE conducts in-depth review process meant to ensure organizational accountability to people living in poverty so that they got power to influence partners and stakeholders at various levels and supporters/donors. It allows all to understand the impact of our work at individual level, community level, at stakeholder level.

Participation of project owners:

AAE involves decisive right holders of interventions from the onset of project cycles to ensure ownership and sustainability. They take part in problem identification, planning, leading implementation, contributing labor and local materials and take part in evaluation of achievements. Moreover, ActionAid also focuses in empowering communities and particularly women living in poverty to participate and lead various community-based organizations and groups to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the various development initiatives it undertakes.



2021 Partners' Grant for Program Intervention

Partner list	Development Area	Priority 1: Address the structural causes of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and secure economic justice/women's economic empowerment; Humanitarian Aid
		Grant Provided
Rift Valley children and Women Development Organization (RCWDO)	Saba Boru	3,117,402.22
Union of Ethiopia Women and Children's Association (EWCA)	Amhara region S/Wollo Zone Kalu woreda (Habru)	1,750,479.86
Consortium of Ethiopia Human Rights Organization (CEHRO)	Addis Ababa	1,462,553.12
Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)	SNNPR, Hadiya Zone, Hosanna Woreda (Soro).	1,658,293.87
Population, Health, and Environment Consortium (PHE)	Addis Ababa	653,987.36
PADet	Dessie & Debrebirhan	3,722,000.00
Redeem the Generation (RTG)	Flood Response Afar Region	4,066,455.00
Ethiopian women Lawyers Association (EWLA)	Addis Ababa	154,000.00
Young Women's Christian Association in Ethiopia (YWCA Ethiopia)	Addis Ababa	1,831,724.47
Network Ethiopia Women Association (NEWA)	Addis Ababa	215,000.00
Young Men's Christian Association in Ethiopia (YMCA Ethiopia)	Addis Ababa	157,000.00
ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIS ASS.	Addis Ababa	253,064.26
TOTAL		19,041,960.16



FIND US

ActionAid Ethiopia

Tel.: +251 11 465 4671

Email: Comms.Ethiopia@actionaid.org

Fax: +251 11465 3420

Lemi Kura Sub-city, Woreda 13

@ActionAid Ethiopia 

@ActionAidE 

www.ethiopia.actionaid.org 