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**Action**

for Gender Justice,  
Good Governance and  
Poverty Eradication

**ACTIONAID ETHIOPIA**  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## 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.



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Tinebeb Berhane,  
Country Director

## 1. Message from the Country Director

The year 2019, as stipulated in our fifth Country Strategic Plan, was a year that we amplified the voices of women, girls, the youth, and the vulnerable people living in poverty in pursuing their rights to lead a dignified and prosperous life.

Using our Human Right Based Approach (HRBA) as well as program framework of Rights, Resilience and Redistribution, we were able to empower 113,171 people living in poverty mainly women and girls, with a total investment of around ETB 105 Million (£2.5 Million) through our integrated interventions. Communities created solidarity amongst themselves to drive their agenda and meaningfully engage with the duty bearer. It was a year that power in people unleashed to fight for their gender rights. It was a year the participation of our communities demonstrated across our programming and that we played was demonstrated our multiple accountabilities satisfactorily.

At the closure of the year, we handed over two matured long-term Local Rights Program (LRPs), Seru Bele Gesgar and Girar Jarso development projects to their communities and local government after propelling the development projects for about 14 years. On the other hand, we have established a new Local Right Programme at Ameya district of Western Shoa zone of Oromia regional state to work with communities and their agencies of critical mass to push forward with their agenda.

The revision and ratification of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) legislation brings hope in the opening of the space for civil society to play active role in human right issues and general democratic processes in country that AAE is supporting in various ways.

Our advocacy on gender justice and particularly in areas of unpaid care work (UCW) and gender-based violence (GBV) brought civil society together for collective voice. In that endeavor, we were able to educate the public through media, influence national level policy revisions and play our key role in various platforms and networks and shared our thoughts and ideologies. Our research findings on good governance, impact of CSO legislation in the past 10 years, youth for social change and feasibility of shelter for GBV survivors not only served as input for our advocacy agenda but also re-oriented our strategy that we added a priority on promotion of good governance with focus on Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) and creating enabling environment for active citizenship.

The year 2019, like any other years, was a year that we faced several contextual challenges as well. The instable political landscape coupled with humanitarian crisis and economic inflation as well as decline in funding challenged our work. Nonetheless, as resilient and organization with value of courage of conviction we were able to push our mission forward successfully.

All this success could not have been realized had not we had strong engagement and leadership of our communities who took the prime responsibility to transform their own lives. It could not be achieved without our devoted staffs, supporters, donors, local government, our partners, and the entire ActionAid Federation. This is a collective success that we celebrate together and serve as springboard to strive more for the years to come. A Heart-felt gratitude to you all!

***In Solidarity!***

## 2. Organizational Background

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 had made significant contribution to the country's development for more than 30 years. It started its operation in Dalotcha woreda of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State and in 2019 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 programmes, 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 back to power imbalance.

The funds that have been used for the year 2019 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 2019. 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 and AA Italy in a strategic partnership with AAE.

This report covers only three programme priorities that AAE implemented excluding good governance due to the restriction we had in the CSO law for the last decade. 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 five years period 2018-2023 accordingly. The review has resulted in strategic shifts of program priorities to include governance and youth. As per the reviewed CSP, AAE has four Programme Priority Areas. These are:

**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.

## 2.1. Long term vision and mission objectives

AAE has developed its country strategic paper 5 (CSP V, 2018– 2023) to guide its priorities and strategies. Accordingly, the vision and mission of AAE are:

- **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.

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

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

## 2.2. Organizational Values

AAE gives paramount attention to People Living In Poverty (which consists of poor households, women, children, and youth who reside in rural and urban areas) and primarily to respond to their 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 values of AAE in the process of striving 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

**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

**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

**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

**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

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

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

## 2.3. Core strategies and approaches

AAE's engagement is basically guided primarily by principles of Human Right Based Approach to empower People Living In Poverty, working in solidarity with those who share common purpose for collective action and impact.

**Participation:** ActionAid believes that ensuring proactive participation of people living in poverty guarantees successes to development endeavors. People Living In Poverty, particularly women, children and youth are mobilized, conscientized and organized to critically analyze their situation, reflect on their options and play active role in identifying development issues and opportunities, planning, implementing and evaluating development programs. Approaches such as participatory planning and budgeting as well as participatory review and reflection processes (PRRPs) are employed as avenues for instituting a culture of participatory decision-making. We also involve our partners and government stakeholders in programme development cycles (from inception to evaluation phases) to ensure ownership and sustainability.

**Capacity Building:** Enabling people living in poverty to unleash their potential and organize around development interventions and facilitates collective power to bring changes. Opportunities are created to develop people's innate potentials. Emphasis is given to initiating and strengthening

community-based organizations and supporting creation of second level organizations (unions, forums, networks, etc.). AAE supports capacity development of its partners and civil society organizations that share a common purpose in the fight against poverty.

**Partnership and Networking:** AAE realizes that poverty is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon and that peoples' livelihoods are affected by decisions and choices made by others. It is imperative to create greater collaboration with other development actors to promote collective agenda. AAE joins hands and stands in solidarity with a range of players including CBOs, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the media and networks to fight the structural causes of poverty. Emphasis is given to working in partnership with agencies of people living in poverty at different levels to enhance their institutional capacities to work in solidarity with other pro-poor institutions and among themselves. Likewise, we continue to strengthen collaboration with government institutions so that peoples' needs are met effectively.

**Knowledge generation, documentation, sharing and learning:** We support internal action research and closely work with research and academic institutions. Programme appraisals, internal and external evaluations, case studies and participatory review and reflection processes (PRRPs) that involve communities and partners are areas of local knowledge generation. AAE strengthens its documentation practice through establishing a system that ensures the flow of information from grassroots to national and international levels for learning. Emphasis is given to sharing our achievements and best practices with communities, partners and other relevant organizations and stakeholders. AAE will also continue to learn from the good practices of other actors.

**Information Technology and Communication for Development:** Quick and effective flow of information accelerates holistic development. The rapid development in information and communication technology opens opportunities to all, including people living in poverty and vulnerable people. Emphasis is also given to using information technology to support our mission, especially around grassroots communities.

**Mainstream the Views and Needs of Women, Children and Youth:** Every aspect of our development undertakings are designed in ways that incorporate the needs, benefits and aspirations of women, children, and youth.

**Addressing Immediate and Basic Need:** AAE will continue to enable people living in poverty access essential and basic needs crucial for livelihood improvement and support them during emergency situations. We view the delivery of services not as an end by itself but as means to mobilize and organize communities to make decisions and partner with other actors. Likewise, we view our emergency responses as avenues to save lives and support and promote sustainable development in a manner that does not perpetuate dependency on external support. AAE recognizes that the State has primary responsibility to meet development demands. We refrain from duplicating the state's roles and actions. Through enabling access to basic services, we strictly adhere to the principle of value addition and introduction of alternatives and innovations

**Advance Innovations and Alternatives:** Our approaches to addressing the structural causes of poverty seek to challenge the status quo and conventional ways of doing things. We will promote innovative and alternative ways. Our local rights programmes play an essential role in modeling innovations for scale up and greater impact.

## 2.4. Operational Areas

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

**Table 2:** ActionAid Ethiopia's Operation Areas

No	Name of Local Right Programme(LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Distance from Addis Ababa (Kms)
1	Decha	Decha	Kafa	SNNPRS	480
2	Seru	1. Seru 2. BeleGesgar	Arsi	Oromia	300
3	Girar Jarso	1. Girar Jarso 2. Fiche	North Showa	Oromia	110
4	Saba Boru	1. Saba Boru 2. Agawayu	Guji	Oromia	589
5	Janamora	Janamora	North Gondar	Amhara	920
6	Kamashi	1. Kamashi 2. Agalo Miti	Kamashi	Benshangul -Gumuz	561
7	Ilfata	Ilfata	West Shoa	Oromia	150
8	Guna	Debre Tabor	South Gondar	Amhara	670
9	Semen Bench	Bench Sheko	Bench Maji	SNNPR	585
10	Raya Azebo	Raya Azebo	Southern Tigray	Tigray	650
11	Ameya	Ameya	West Shoa	Oromia	144

## 2.5. AAE's Theory of Change (how change happens)

Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication are 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 People Living In Poverty (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.

### 3. Major Programme Engagements in 2019

#### 3.1. Women's Rights Programme

AAE has been working with women and girls of different age groups and their organizations to address structural causes of violence against women and girls including patriarchy (male dominance) and deep-rooted harmful practices and enhance their personal security and economic wellbeing.

The principal objective under this priority is to ensure the protection and promotion of Women's and Girls' Rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's right to Economic Justice by challenging patriarchal norms, stereotypes and through recognition, reduction and redistribution of disproportionate unpaid care work responsibilities of women and girls. To enhance this objective, AAE has identified two focus areas: protection and promotion of women's and girls' right from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and economic justice. A total of 103,358 target community members among which 58,096 (56%) were women have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this objective with an outlay of Birr 45,057,971 in 2019 fiscal year.

##### 3.1.1. Violence Against Women and Girls

In 2019, nine of our LRPs (Semen Bentch, Decha, Raya, Elefeta, Guna, Girar Jarso, Janamora, Seru and Seaboru) implemented different activities and core actions that are exceedingly contributing to protection and promotion of Women's and Girls' Rights from Violence and Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

##### Establishing and Strengthening Women Watch Groups (WWGs)

With the objective of enhancing the capacity of WWGs,

- AAE in collaboration with Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) and public universities, provided new and refresher trainings for 1,349 WWG member women on family law, the law of the land against GBV, and women's and girls' rights.
- Semen Bench, Elfeta, Detcha, Janamora, Raya, and Girar Jarso LRPs provided capacity building trainings, office materials, stationary and mentoring support for 78 already established WWGs.
- AAE's WWG model captivated the interest of regional government bodies. They observed that advocacy campaigns and changes brought by WWGs were indeed useful and commendable, hence legalized it (WWG) at regional level in Oromia regional state by taking Elfeta as a model. This in turn motivated women and girls in the area to work more.
- Network/experience sharing discussions between WWGs from Kebeles, girls' clubs from schools and woreda key sectors were organized and a total of 259 people (170 female) at two centers (Awurada and Bobagecha centers) in Detcha LRP were involved.
- 710(492 Females) WWG members and representatives from kebeles, woreda forum, and key sectors held general assembly meeting on sustainability of the activities achieved with the support of AAE in reducing harmful traditional practices and gender-based violence.
- Six full-fledged Reflection Action Circles with 30 women members in each were established in Raya. In total, 180 members of women headed households living in poverty did get opportunities to discuss their own issues with the support of 12 voluntary community facilitators.

##### Women Watch Groups

- Canceled 7 arranged child marriages,
- Settled 6 marriage conflicts between partners,
- Helped 9 women for equal division of property in times of divorce.
- Made 185 school dropout girls rejoin their schools.

- Three LRPs (Raya, Semen Bentch and Elfeta) made 3 exposure visits and formed linkages with nearby universities, legal aid centres. AAE also supported WWGs and district government structures in combating VAWG effectively and efficiently.
- All LRPs held discussion forums with traditional/customary leaders to incorporate HTP and GBV cases in their bylaws and sensitize the issues in their monthly meetings. That resulted in revision of 32 bylaws in Detcha and Elfeta LRPs.



Elfeta Women's Watch Group after receiving legal registration certificate from their zonal authorities (Picture taken by AAE)

- AAE in collaboration with local women's rights organization called Network of Ethiopian Women Associations (NEWA) organized a TV panel discussion on VAWG and legal implementation on the problems. Panelists were ActionAid-supported women drawn from Menja community in Detcha, 2 WWGs chairs from Guna, Country Director of AAE, representatives from Federal First Instance Court, Federal Supreme Court Child Justice Project, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, and Network of Ethiopian Women Associations (NEWA)
- AAE in collaboration with NEWA organized a workshop on the theme of GBV in IDPs in the presence of 50 participants from government, local and national partners, and actors of the humanitarian sector.

As a result of these interventions in the reporting period, Women Watch Group members achieved the cancellation of 7 arranged child marriages, settled 6 marriage conflicts between partners, helped 9 women for equal division of property in times of divorce, raised awareness of community members regularly in Sunday church 3 programs, public holidays ,coffee ceremonies and meetings .

The attitude of communities about the power women have is improving through these Women Watch Groups which at times bring men to court and local government bodies when they get them arranging early marriage to their schoolgirls. With the help of such structures, 185 girls that dropped their school in Elfeta, Decha, Semen Bench and Raya rejoined school.

Through WWG sensitization and awareness creation activities, women are becoming more curious about their rights and starting to defend in courts, send their girls to school and become strong in persuading other women to fight for their rights. Women also started taking part in the issue of civic participation and state accountability. Women have started asking the government for basic services like water, health services, transportation, and road infrastructure.

**Support and strengthen Girls' clubs and school clubs to challenge VAWG and HTPs**



With the aim of capacitating and developing internal self-pledge of young girls to fight violence against women and girls (VAWG), AAE gave training to 574 (371 Females) school club members about life skills and establishment of active girls' clubs, supported 31 schools with the provision of mini-media materials to promote women's rights, facilitated the linkage of 200 students (25 girls) in Elefeta and Raya with best performing model girls in nearby universities in Ambo and Mekele; awarded 40 best performing girls in Semen Bench with solar lamps; helped 612 girls get tutorial classes, linked families of 50 girls with saving and credit

cooperatives to economically empower them and send their daughters to school; organized different training to their parents and teachers to encourage girls' education, provided 1200 re-usable sanitary pads for girls; and many more.

These were among the many planned activities in 2019 to encourage girls' education and in the long run to lessen VAWG. As a result of community campaigns on girls' education in Elfeta and Decha for instance, 300 out-of-school girls rejoined school.

**Support /provide shelter**

For the purpose of informing future programming with regards to shelter, AAE conducted shelter feasibility study in three selected LRPs (Guna, Raya and Semen Bench) and found unquestionable need from all the three LRPs. The feasibility study identified the need for shelter services for women who survived VAWG or prevent secondary victimization, and shared findings of consultation with stakeholders and partners involved in providing psychosocial, legal and protection services to women and girls and identified existing gaps and opportunities for future programming.

**Provision of services (education and water):** To facilitate reduction of exposure to VAWG & to promote women's leadership, Semen Bench LRP constructed one fully furnished school block with four classrooms, one library and two separate latrines which benefited 480 (245 female students), rehabilitated one hand dug well in Kasha primary school and benefited 1127(489 girls).

Saba Boru LRP supported six schools with 120 combined student desk that benefited 360 students, Guna constructed a school block with 4 class rooms which created safe school environment for 912 (391Females) students. Elefeta LRP constructed two standard preschools with all facilities (outdoor and indoor playing material, teaching aid and furniture) in Gute and Beke towns having three educational class, teachers' office, children dining room and separate toilets that benefited 356 school aged children. Seru LRP constructed two water ponds at Dharodhibayu & Hadidohindas kebele of Seru woreda. In total 8591(4005Females) people were benefited with the water and education services availed.



**Organizing and mobilizing women, girls, men, boys and, religious/traditional leaders using various events, platforms, and Social Behavior Change Communication materials**

Under this core action WWGs in all LRPs took lead in international women's day and sixteen days of activism commemoration through arranging different events, panel, and focus group discussions,

- Semen Bench LRP placed 4 billboards on women rights, supported 100 male change agents to have cooperation in awareness creation on VAWG, gave recognition to 58 men who were involved in promotion of Women Rights and accelerated their support to WWGs. Guna LRP on its part provided 2 days training on "Behavioral change approach", for 30(8 Females) focal persons, planning experts and voluntary community facilitators to make them responsive and proactive in addressing women empowerment issues.



WWGs on the ceremony of inaugurating their office at Beke town, Elfeta



**Facilitating linkage and networking among collectives with WWGs:** Three woreda level WWG forum offices were constructed with full furniture (Elfeta, Raya and Semen Bench) and handed over to the Women members. In Raya and Janamora, two new Woreda Women Watch Groups Network were established to challenge VAWGs and Harmful Practices.

**Organize staff capacity building & learning reviews, best practice identification, scalability:** Four staffs implementing Women Rights project participated on learning and sharing exercise and were trained on COM\_B approach. All LRP Programme Officers, Coordinators, Finance and Admin Officers, unit heads in total 29(10Females) got refresher on Women rights and HRBA during planning session at Addis Ababa.

### 3.2. Economic Justice and Unpaid Care Work

Empowering women to engage in socio economic activities is one of the top objectives of AAE. To achieve this, AAE implemented several activities in its different LRPs. Some of the core actions it undertook were:

- Promoted gender-sensitive market linkage through women's collectives,
- Organized and strengthened women in economic collectives like SACCOs,
- Promoted and facilitated adult literacy to enhance women's participation and leadership in various collectives,
- Facilitated life skill and leadership trainings and exposure visits, succession planning, role modelling, revising and exercising bylaws,
- Mobilized, organized, and sensitized women and girls and their structures to demand and lead initiatives to promote gender equality (women's holistic rights and women's leadership) in different platforms in urban and rural areas to advance their economic and social well-being.

**Organize and strengthen women in economic collectives; and building women's individual and collective capacities:** AAE and its LRPs provided supports like training, exposure visits, institutional capacities, construction of SACCO office & material support to 5,291 (4,962 women) people. In this regard,

- Leadership training was provided for 318 (10men) SACCOs leaders for five days in close consultation and collaboration with Woreda Cooperative office,
- Four SACCO offices were constructed by Elfeta and Bentch Maji LRPs benefiting 501(13men) members,
- AAE constructed two Warehouses at Tefaleta MPC and Didea Union at Robe in Seru LRP
- Three new SACCOs were established; one in Kimir Dingay in Guna, and two in Semen Bench with 726 members
- AAE trained 3,024 (2,800Females) people on basic business skill in collaboration with WISE.
- 2617(2462Females) members got revolving fund support from AAE.
- Intra and inter exposure visits were carried out to learn and share from each other

## Story of Change

### 'My family started new life'



In AAE's Elfeta Local Rights Programme, women in group discuss all kinds of their problems and propose solutions. Lelisie Olkeba is one of the women who have been impacted by ActionAid programme intervention. She is 34, married and a mother of 8 (4 daughters). Her husband Mr Baysa, 45, is a farmer. Both are uneducated and were living in poor condition. Mr. Bayisa used to be highly alcoholic and extravagant who aggravated the economic problem of the family by selling family asset. They were found in poorest economic situation and known in their community for their regular conflict.

In the meantime, Lelisie heard that ActionAid is organizing women living in poverty in Reflection Action Circle (RAC) and in saving and credit cooperatives in their locality.

*'My joining of RAC group has brought remarkable change in my family life. In the RAC group, we discuss all issues affecting women's lives and how to handle them. I realized that poverty is in our attitude or mind. As the result of our discussions in the RAC, I changed my behavior in my home, my communication style and commitment to improve my family life. I also discussed with family members about our poverty situation and ways to get out of it. Inspired by my behavioral change, my husband stopped drinking alcohol and selling household assets'*

*'Eventually, as members of RAC have been organized in saving and credit cooperative and got revolving fund from ActionAid, I joined the cooperatives, got loan of birr 700 and started sheep fattening. I got birr 1500 profit at 1st fattening and continued some activity in the other period. In the second loan I got birr 2,000 from which I got profit of Birr 1,300 cash and two sheep in kind,' said Lelise.*

Previously, the family was renting the farmland to others due to lack of agricultural input but now the family is farming the land themselves. They can buy all necessary agricultural inputs and plant their farm getting a loan of birr 2,500. They expect a profit of Birr 6,000 out of the next harvest.

Lelisie is now committed to send all her children to school. The 1st three are unlucky since their parents wasted their time without sending them to school due to lack of awareness. However, the remaining five are attending school.

*'Since most women in the area are uneducated and living in poor situation, I don't want to repeat this life in my girls. I will give priority to educate them and even I started adult education supported by ActionAid in my Reflection Action Circle'*

### “Daily laborer” to “Demam”

Demam Yalew(45) is a widow mother of three son, lives in Kimir Dingay Kebele. She has never gone to school. Her husband was the bread winner of the family before four years, she was a housewife. When



he died leaving 3 sons, the raising responsibility without any source of income was a very tough time in her life. The youngest son dropout of his school from 9th grade and migrated to Addis Ababa for getting job. And she started working as a daily laborer. She explains the then situation as “It was a trickiest time for me and my sons, I used to work different activities for rich persons with a less payment to let survive my family. When I was a daily laborer, I used prepare “Enjera” at least for 8 households getting a monthly wedge of Birr 60 (less than two pounds) from each and it was a challenge for me to finish the month with this little income including education cost for my sons.”

Demam is one of the target group members which was selected by her poverty situation for sheep rearing income generating activities. ActionAid provided her with 6 sheep (5 local breed and 1 improved breed ram) and 5 days livestock management training to engage Demam and other 34 women in the district. She participated in the established women reflection action group to discuss on women’s social and economic challenges and opportunities with her peer.

Currently, Demam and her 2 sons (3rd and 5th grade students) lead their life with bright hope and happiness through the economic and social status change they have gotten. Demam expresses her feeling: “ActionAid’s support changed my everything, I started changing my income source when I participated in the first training of my life which was organized by ActionAid, I have got eye opening knowledge and birr 600 per diem from the training. I immediately bought different spices from the market to re-sell and started selling it in market days. I and my sons feed our sheep well and sold 4 of their offspring by birr 7,200. Now the family is able to dress well and could buy other house stuffs.”

Demam’s social status also changed. She tells: “previously the villagers used to know and call me as “daily laborer”, no one used to call me by my name, Demam. But these days, everybody calls me by my name, and it is a pride for my children too. Due to my better economic status, I can now get access to bigger loan from rich merchants as they respect and trust me. Unlike the previous times, I also live in a separate house with my children paying a monthly rent of Birr 100. I used to live by sharing rooms with relatives. As a result of awareness I from our weekly discussion sessions, I feed my sons and fulfil their educational materials well, we share household chores as appropriate and eat our food together and spend time together which was unthinkable. In the past, I used to spend whole day on the daily labor.” Currently Demam gets birr 300 to 500 profit per week and has 10 sheep (birr 20,000 plus), 3 hens (birr 900) and birr 4,500 in her spice trade as a capital and birr 830 in her saving account which will support to live her future plan to open a spice wholesaler shop in Kimir Dingay and build her own house. Finally, she expresses her gratefulness to ActionAid and its supporters and requested to expand its support for more women living in poverty to let them lead a dignified life as hers.

### Meko Kedir

Meko Kedir, 46 is a member of a SACCO called Abayi Murti organized in Jida Jiru kebele of Seru woreda. She explains her experience in this respect as follows:

*My name is Meko Kedir. I am a member of the executive committee and serving my cooperative as a secretary in which only women leaders are serving. The cooperative was organized by ActionAid six years ago with 15 members (all women). Initially, we were contributing Br 1 every 15 days as saving and tried to initiate loan service to our members. But the capital we mobilized was insignificant and the service was very poor. As we got training however, the members decided to increase their contribution to Br 10.*

*This was because of the transparency we demonstrated simply in terms of impartial selection of members for eligibility and fair distribution of small loans based on the agreed bylaw. Gradually, AAE provided the SACCO with ETB 400,000.00 and constructed a standard office building with adequate facilities. This substantially enhanced our capacity and enabled us to reach more needy members ensuring similar transparent process that comforted every member. As a result, our SACCO membership size has grown to 231 (only 5 men) with in this short time and continued growing. This is a huge achievement for us. We are very skeptical to accept men members fearing that the leadership positions of the SACCO may be systematically taken away by men and the system may be manipulated easily. Because most of us*

*came to know a multi-purpose cooperative (MPC) organized and being led by men in our kebele was found to be repeatedly abused and frustrated the community and lost trust. In our case, our leadership is most trusted and respected because of which the SACCO is attracting more members than ever. Because of that, our loan repayment default rate is almost nil. I trust every SACCO led by women have similar experience in the woreda. This is the reality on the ground, and no one can deny. Hence, I strongly recommend women leadership for our MPCs as well to come out of this leadership crisis’.*



MOKO Kedir(Secretary of Abayi Murti SACCO) working in the SACCO office)

**Promoting and facilitating adult literacy:** To enhance women’s participation and leadership in various collectives like SACCOs, AAE facilitated 45 FAL centers which has 1110 women students each has organized in 14 kebeles. As a result, women who did not write and read started to read and write.

**Women and girls mobilized, organized, sensitized and women’s and girls’ organizations strengthened to demand and lead initiatives to promote gender equality:** Under this core action Unpaid care work is the major one which includes domestic work like meal preparation, cleaning, washing clothes, and water and fuel collection) and direct care of persons (including children, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as able-bodied adults) carried out in homes and communities. Unfortunately, this work is left for women, while the woman who is doing all these works at home is considered as jobless. AAE has always brought its prime policy agenda, i.e. Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, to the upfront in all its engagements with local, national, and international stakeholders making empowered women drawn



AAE has always brought its prime policy agenda, i.e. Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, to the upfront in all its engagements with local, national, and international stakeholders making empowered women drawn from its Local Rights Programmes throughout the country its vanguards. (Picture above shows a group photo of community women group representatives, AAE leadership, federal and regional higher government officials of ministries after a highlevel policy advocacy workshop on Unpaid Care Work in conjunction with March 8)

from its Local Rights Programmes throughout the country its vanguards. AAI particularly AAE has taken Unpaid care work as a policy agenda and started to raise the awareness of all stakeholders beginning from National level leaders to village level ordinary citizens. During the reporting period, we made community discussions on unpaid care work conducted and instituted through RA in various collectives organized by AAE with the objective of creating recognition, value, redistribute; and relieving girls from unpaid Care work (linked with Girls' right to education). In total, 9301 people (7279 F), had participated on different events where unpaid care work was taken as serious agenda to be recognized, reduced, and redistributed.

During the reporting period, the campaign is launched in the presence of more than 200 woreda, regional and federal level stakeholders on the 2019 international women's day. Further, the campaign was scaled up using the space created by the Ethiopian Great Run event which created the platform for ActionAid to be officially recognized, acknowledge on its Unpaid Care Work campaign agenda. In the EGR 2019 event, about 45,000 people took part in support of different social causes one of which was AAE's UCW campaign agenda. AAE was one of the sponsors of 2019 Great Ethiopian Run to promote the agenda of Unpaid Care Work. AAE has also promoted its campaign on media and communication channels for instance on newspapers, TV, website, official Facebook page of

the Great Run, banners, billboards, flyers, posters, brochure, press releases & press conferences, backdrop banners, race T-shirts and other promotional materials provided through the Great Ethiopian Run (GER) team. The GER designed, printed, published ActionAid's official logo on 45,000 race t-shirts, on all race promotional materials, and communication channels.

Moreover, AAE has joined the Federal Ministry of women and children in organizing a national high-level policy advocacy platform on UCW and improved technologies to ease women's burdens. The practical examples of AAE in rural communities around water, preschool, education, and improved power supply systems were presented as testimonies whereby calling for gender responsive public services. The event was attended by more than 100 representatives from federal, regional offices.

Furthermore, UCW became national agenda through promotion on two national TV channels through 2 dramatic 1minute spots which run for about 20 days. One of the spots focus on UCW in urban setups while the other has the rural scenario of prevalence of patriarchy. In both spots the women and girls involved have lots of household burden of care and have faced time poverty which leads to their lack of choice in their lives. It is intended to reach the public at large to recognize the burden and key stakeholders to address the issue at policy level.

## Story of Change

### "Dowry devastated my educational life"

My name is W/ro Tigist Atrsie. I live in Gola kebele, Semen Bench Woreda, Bench Maji Zone, Ethiopia. I am 30 years old. I am married and have 3 boys and 3 girls. All my children are learning at Gola primary school. I never went to school because my father did not allow me to. He used to say a girl who goes to school becomes worthless. The community believed that when a girl went to school she would talk with many boys and shake boys' hands and soon she loses her dignity and becomes unwanted. To make my family happy I accepted their interest and culture. Until I was married, I served my family. I was under 18 when my husband's family gave 9/nine/ cattle to my father to marry me without my interest and consent. At that time, my father fulfilled his interest and I lost my chance to become a successful girl. After I was married, there was no chance for me to go to school. Immediately after marriage I was engaged in hard work and became pregnant.

Before AAE started working in our Kebele, my husband was not cooperative and did not understand what unpaid care work was. However, he became very cooperative and started supporting me after ActionAid sensitized the community; even our children have started to share the house chores. He encourages me to fight harmful traditional practices and VAWS and to participate in different community-based organizations and meetings. We have agreed not to apply the



high dowry system in our children's case. Now I am a member of WWGs established by AAE in our Kebele & actively participate programmes AAE implements. Fortunately, I became the representative of the WWG. We come together and discuss all our problems twice a month in the office AAE constructed for us. Now I am highly engaged in serving the community and follow girl's education in our Kebele. We teach our people to minimize dowry and encourage marriage with free will of both parties. We are also struggling to abolish polygamy in the Bench community. AAE also established women only saving and credit cooperatives. I am one of the members of the Gola SACCOS. I took loan and bought one milk cow for the first time. Now my children have milk to grow well. AAE always stand by the side of poor women. All our Kebele women are happy with AAE."



Tigist's husband demonstrating unpaid care work to their village members

### 3.3. Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice

AAE has been working with Women and communities to transform 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:

1. Women and communities ensured their food sovereignty and resilience to climate change by adopting agroecology practices and principles and influencing policies and/or programs ,
2. Women and communities are able to influence policies and plans that help reduce climate change impacts and ensured their needs and rights
3. Women and communities get organized, influence decisions and actions on issues of environment, natural resources and local development and able to access and control over land and other natural resources. A total of 3373 target beneficiaries among which 2383 (71%) women have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this objective. Ameya as new LRP was inaugurated where 1830 (687 females) people took part and organized, trained 24 VCFs and organized 24 RACs in four kebeles.

#### Supporting women farmers to implement agroecology practices :

AAE trained 367 women living in poverty on Agroecology (fruit and vegetable production, harvesting and post harvesting improvement techniques and provide fruit seedlings (Guava, Coffee, Avocado, Mango and Banana) in collaboration with woreda Agricultural office and Public universities. Guna LRP in collaboration with woreda Agricultural office and Debre Tabor University provided 3 round training on soil conservation and fertility management, preparation and application of compost, pre- and post-harvest crop production handling for 99 (85 Females) community members. Tedo mender Multipurpose cooperative was established and capacitated with a total member of 181 (100 females) in Guna LRP. As a result, they prepared compost, used improved seed, sowed crop in raw practiced weeding on time, harvesting on time, thrashed their crop with care, increased productivity

#### Support and promote women farmers and community's engagement in sustainable livelihoods interventions (building livelihood skills, assets...)-

In relation to this core action in the concluded year, 124 women got access to improved technologies of energy saving stoves which were organized as women youth producers' cooperative and provided financial support as a seed capital to enhance livelihood of the members by selling the stoves. The issue of poverty and the ways to escape became one of the the reflection action circles (RAC) agendas. Thus, seed money was transferred to Lidet SACCO in Guna to engage women living in poverty in poultry production, 160 women were trained on livestock rearing, 80 first round beneficiaries and 80 second round beneficiaries

(all women in 5 Kebeles) were targeted, trained, and linked with primary SACCOs. 512 women headed householders were trained with skills of stove production in three most vulnerable kebeles around Seru town where women are currently relying on firewood for their energy consumption since injera baking is relatively high in those kebeles.

In the year 2019, to support and build the capacity of women and community in model watershed development and conservation works in private and communal land, 58(39Females) kebele watershed management committee members were trained on necessity of natural resource conservation, techniques of conservation and the committee members' especially women's role in conservation activity. Besides, AAE purchased 9,500, 200, and 540 hop, apple, and different garden beatifying seedlings respectively and distributed and planted in watersheds, school, and garden areas. In collaboration with woreda agriculture office ActionAid mobilized distribution of above 10,000 different local seedlings in each of the kebele watersheds.

To enhance youth and school's involvement in natural resource conservation and environmental protection capacity building and awareness creation training was organized for Kimir Dingay youth and Wukiro school environmental protection club members. The youth developed sense of ownership on environmental protection activity, they took care of the planted seedling regularly, the school management and club members took care of the school environment with regularly watering and taking care of planted seedling which have more than 4000 varieties.



#### Story of Change

##### "School Environmental Club's Promising Impact"

Wukiro primary cycle school is one of AAE Guna LRP intervention area school. In the school there are a total of 684 (326 females) students. In this school there is one club which works with AAE. Its name known as Wukiro school environmental club. The name of the club leader is called Msitawit Adera and her vice leader is Meseret Adugna. Both are student girls. The environmental club leader telling a story about when and how the school club was linked with AAE and has got support by says, "The club was established in 2019 school academic year. The objective of the club is to be a model by making a school compound clean, beautiful, safe and attractive to school communities by planting local breed seedlings flower. During this time, our school facilitated the link with AAE and enabled the club member to get training, seedlings and agricultural tools. The training and the support were focused on environmental conservation and compost preparation as well as application of inputs and material (apple and hope seedling, Acacia D. & agricultural tools). The training and the input support were in shaping. The number of environmental nature club member was 38(24 female). Off- course we have two club member teacher, namely Zenebu Birkie and Bogale Tessefaye.. . As a result of input support, the nature club planted 50 apple, 300 hope&500 acacia D. seedling in the school compound. Currently, all apple, majority of hope & acacia seedlings are in a good condition and looking attractive. We are working to change our school compound Eucalyptus tree with local breed and keeping our school compound clean, green and attractive. In addition to this we are disseminating information on environmental issues to school students to create awareness on climate change like the change of season, warming of class which is difficult to attend on it and degradation of soil that leads to poor production" The school club leader continues to thenarrate about the future of the club," we have a plan to plant more seedlings outside school compound with the participation of community when the rain comes. This is to protect the runoff water(flood) and its effect. Therefore, our members will become a model to other school community

As part of fighting against poverty and ensuring food security of women headed households living in poverty, vulnerable women were identified during the initial assessment to be provided with shoats (Sheep and goats) so as to enable them use the opportunity to engage in income generation and house hold asset building so that they can join cooperatives and continue to benefit from the services they render equally with men and eventually ensure their food security. To this end, 552 women were selected from 11 kebeles (five from low land and six from high land) and were provided with 2208 shoats (4 shoat/ person) during the project implementation period with close collaboration of local stakeholders including woreda agriculture office (WAO), Cooperatives Promotion Offices, and Livestock development offices of the two woredas. Because of this opportunity offered by the project, many women have managed to escape from miserable poverty both in the high land as well as low land kebeles and even shared the chance with their 2nd generation beneficiaries as per the plan agreed initially.

### 3.4. Humanitarian Intervention

AAE aimed to have women led humanitarian response with their strengthened power and agency to transform the humanitarian system to be more locally led and accountable to affected communities. In line with this, it has identified three focus areas ; Making humanitarian responses and actions women led, increasing accountability of governments and humanitarian actors to affected communities and enhancing resilience of women and young people to adapt and mitigate impacts of disasters, climate change and conflicts. In this standpoint 6,631(3912F) people affected by drought and conflict were reached with emergency support in line with guidelines of protection of women’s rights, safety and dignity in emergencies and expended birr 7,650,108.29. 260 households were provided with potato seed and 170 households got cash support in Guna ,978 drought and 53 conflict affected persons got food and cash support in Janamora ,2000 IDPs in Kemashi and Agalometi were provided with agricultural tools, clothing ,sanitary and hygiene kits and school materials,trained 81(67 F) committee members on the importance of women led DRR committee and in Decha 1330 conflict affected people were supported; 30 with livestock and 1300 got food



Emergency support at Kamashi

support. Besides, AAE secured a project from humanitarian investment fund through ActionAid UK worth of ETB 3,669,460.00 that is intended to protect women and girls from Violence in Melkadida and Kobo refugee camps. This project planned to support and build on the functional capacity of women-led community-based protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to SGBV, Support intervention that protects women’s rights, safety and dignity in camp and strengthen the capacity of refugee committees / clan leaders / community structures on protection mechanisms to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse.

### Story of Change

#### Life-saving response

W/ro Bire Ambaw (55) lives in Betizaz Kebele of Janamora Woreda. Her husband with whom she lived for more than 30 years died three years ago and she is living with one of her granddaughters. Erratic rain and drought hit her resident for four years in a row and because of this she needed a lifesaving food aid to sustain her life and the life of her beloved granddaughter. She had no livestock as she sold all her goats in May 2017 and her livelihood was dependent on her 0.125



hectares of land which she rented to a farmer. But it is four years since she got her grain because of inability to produce.

AAE intervened in life saving food aid to people living in poverty especially women, elderly and people with disabilities. “I remained empty handed when my goats died because of the drought, my last harvest was back in January 2015 and since then I have nothing to sell to get money and buy food items. We had the chance of borrowing from traditional lenders by using our farmlands as collateral. So, if I count get this support of 90 Kgs of Maize and 9 kgs of bean, we might have lost our life with my grand-daughter.” She said.

According to W/ro Bire women especially elders could not leave their residence in search of job opportunities, but she expects the drought to continue and people may die. This kind of support is very good to save their lives. “AAE is becoming our father since 2016- it gave us water, gave us sheep though we lost them because of the drought and last year we got maize, sorghum and bean and this year we are receiving additional grains. Who can do this for us?” She concludes.

## 4. Partners' Capacity Building

In 2019, AAE supported four local partner organizations named RCWDO, NEWA, RaDO and ANPPCAN by providing capacity building support through supportive supervision, trainings, participating them to the national planning session, holding consultative meeting, conducting national PRRP meetings and collaborative fund raising. In addition to this, AAE has supported partners in handing over of projects and establishing new partnerships for fund raising and program delivery.

At a strategic level, AAE has been supporting Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs by providing financial and technical support in its work including revision of the National Women's Policy and various advocacy platforms. AAE is also a member of various networks and coalitions of civil society organizations, the Country Director is also vice board chair of Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA).

### 4.1. AAE best practices

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 first, solidarity with PLIP, advancing women's rights and promoting women leadership are among one of the signs of AAE that must be scaled 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 beneficiaries 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 beneficiary 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.

**Participation of project owners:** - AAE involves decisive beneficiaries 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.

**Periodical PRRPs:** AAE conducts in-depth review process meant to ensure organizational accountability to people living in poverty so that they get 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.

## 5. Our Contribution to Collective Priorities through international platforms

AAE has committed to engage and exchange its learnings there by contributing to the collective priorities through the three international platforms: Violence against women and economic alternatives, resilient livelihoods and climate justice and emergency preparedness, response and prevention as well as one single global campaign.

### **Violence against women and economic alternatives:**

AAE as member of the international platform on women's rights, has been in close consultation and learning with the platform throughout the year through different communication methods, sharing of updates and case studies to the federation members. AAE has also participated in the meeting held in April 2019, at Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting generally was for knowledge building and conversing on feminism, intersectionality, power, politics of knowledge building; on the need to work with women rights organizations and movements; check in among countries in their programs and implementations regarding women rights, particularly those targeted and excluded groups of women and girls in the last one year. In these groups of most targeted and excluded sex workers, widows, witchcraft, minority groups, those with disabilities are listed out as examples. The need for countries to engage at macroeconomic policy analysis level than limited to microlevel engagements is raised as a concern and the experience of FEMNET was shared. The experiences of POWER and Young Urban Women Workers multi-country projects were presented.

**Global Campaign:** As the federation was to launch its campaign on UCW and Decent Work for women under two workstreams, May 1st/ 2019, the IP1 meeting served to consolidate efforts, and reassure preparedness of countries in this regard. The two work streams of the campaign i.e. 1. on UCW and 2. On Women's Decent work and ratification of ILO convention on violence free were discussed based on countries who signed up for each. The meeting brought the IP1 and IP2 platforms together on the global campaign agenda of the two work streams. ActionAid Ethiopia, due to the then restrictive CSO law on directly working on women's rights and violence issues, had only signed up for UCW work stream. Accordingly, we have launched our campaign in April 2019, just before the IP1 Meeting

and shared our lessons. AAE's campaign was attended by over 200 national level key government actors and CBO representatives all over the country. The CBOs have raised their asks to the respective government bodies where some of their quests were replied to on the spot and some others taken up for further thinking and reflection. LRP took assignments to follow up with respective regions to the realization of the ASKS of the CBOs around legalization, sustainability, resource support needs etc.

The revision of the CSO law in Ethiopia was also shared to the federation as bringing new spirit to the country program and its plan to reposition itself to boldly work on women's rights and with women rights organizations. Following that, AAE has also reviewed its campaign framework to include decent work for women campaign work stream.

### **Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice (IP3), 2019 engagement**

The 2019 Annual Learning Review (ALR) meeting of IP3-Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice Platform convened in Johannesburg 8-11 April of the year. The overall objective to undertake deep reflections, learning and sharing amongst participants in the RLCJ and assess the contribution of the platform to AA theory of change (TOC). During the four days meeting there were different sessions of which the main ones include context (2017-2018) reflection and next cycle of programme implementation; revisiting the MEL approach and reviewing Theory of Change; as well as learning and deep reflections from practice. Accordingly, there were series of presentations, plenary, gallery walks, parallel sessions, group works.



The gallery walk was specifically the session in which countries shared their learning and contributions to the platform from their work at the grass root level. Hence, AAE shared its learning experience and contribution from three case studies drawn from LRPs. The first case was from Ofla: resilient livelihoods and transformed household; second from Guna: access to and control over water improving the livelihood of women and girls and contributing to the redistribution of UCW and third was from Janamora: women led emergency preparedness and response for resilience building.

Moreover, as AAE had commitment to the two workstreams of the platform viz agroecology and food sovereignty, and climate justice, we participated and made contribution to the different panels, parallel session and group works. These include seeds and food sovereignty; ecosystem approach; climate justice and false solutions, and young people and climate change.

#### **Drive Transformative Women-led Emergency Preparedness, Response and Prevention**

The International Platform for Strategic Objective 4 in Action for Global Justice was held in Tanzania on the 3rd – 5th April 2019. The IP was attended by a total of 45 participants, consisting of staff from 28 countries, as well as staff from the GS, of which 26 were women and 19 were male.

There were also 3 partner staffs from 3 countries Ethiopia, Kenya and Bangladesh that shared their women led humanitarian response experiences.

The overall objective of the meeting was for the International Platform to reflect on progress against plans to date in relation to the Theory of Change (ToC), and to share learnings.

RIFT Valley Children and Women Development Organization (RCWDO) has presented its experience on how SHAPE empowered their organization and voices to gain credibility in the humanitarian system. RCWDO representative told the participants that the Shape Framework helped to become more strategic and visible in the community. The SHAPE framework enhanced to develop capacities of staff and enabled them to develop proposals and be able to engage in the humanitarian response more visibly.

RCWDO have developed organisational capacity and was able to engage in multi-agency assessment and development of proposals with different agencies.

AAE has also presented its experience on women led cash transfer in Raya LRP. All the process (Targeting, identification of the cash distribution area, compliant handling etc) of the cash transfer was led by women leaders and it was very effective and handled in short period of time with high quality and ensuring accountability.

## **6. Inputs utilized to realize the annual plan**

### **6.1. Financial input**

During the reporting period Birr 105,676,962.78 of total budget was utilized. Out of this, 14,628,910.23 birr for administration and Birr 91,048,052.55 for program expenses were incurred. 25 % of the program cost was covered by the fund secured from donors while the rest 75% was by regular fund.

Summary of 2019 Expenditure

<b>Budget Summary</b>	
<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>YEAR 2019</b>
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	91,048,052.55
TOTAL ADMIN BUDGET	14,628,910.23
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	105,676,962.78
Program budget / OPERATIONS %	86%
ADMIN COST %	14%

### **6.2. Human Resource**

AAE has been operating its programming with a total number of 48 (41.66 % women). AAE also created opportunities for female Interns/volunteers who are fresh graduates were assigned in 4 LRPs for specific period.

### **6.3. Material Resource**

Existing materials and assets were used as an input in due course of implementing the annual plan.







## Our 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 and poverty eradication, by working with Women and Girls, people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations and supporters.

## Our Values

Mutual Respect,  
Equity and Justice  
Integrity  
Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion  
Courage of Conviction  
Independence  
Humility  
Excellence

## About Us

ActionAid Ethiopia, established in 1989, is a Gender Equality and Poverty Eradication organization. In Ethiopia ActionAid works to challenge various forms of social challenges and build capacities to create empowered mass of communities especially women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to fulfil their basic needs, ensure redistribution of productive resources and build their resilience. 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 inequality and structural causes of poverty.

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