

**act:onaid**

# Newsletter

April, 2024

ActionAid Ethiopia

Power in People Power in People Power in People Power in People Power in People Power in People



**Inclusion in Humanitarian  
Action**



## Inclusion in Humanitarian Action



Meresaeta, aged 26, is one of the targeting committee members from Tsehafti Kebele representing the people with physical impairment. She heads household of 3 females. She doesn't own land and lives on local café business. She explains the process of the humanitarian response:

*"I have been to other projects with similar supports, but this response was the most I liked by many standards. First, the project was transparent from the start, as we were trained on the approach, criteria, and allocated resources. Second, the process was managed by women leadership. The third and the most I was impressed about was the inclusion of people with disabilities in the targeting committee. It is through this project I have ever participated in targeting representing people with disability in our Kebele."*

Meresaeta sitting by the food to be distributed to the needy. (Pic: ActionAid Ethiopia, Feb 2024).

Wejerat is one of the hardest drought-hit districts in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia. Almost all the 88,864 people living in the district have become aid-dependents after they faced total loss of crops because of drought in 2022-2023 harvest year. As the need of life saving support is immense, AAE has made it to reach 2840 (1977 Females) right holders in three Kebeles/neighbourhoods (Tsehafti, Adimesno and Adikeyih). From the total targeted households, 43 were lactating mothers, 18 pregnant, 53(30 Females) orphans, 291(214 female) people with disability, and 798 (690 Female) elders.

Abided by its Humanitarian Signature, i.e., accountability, transparency, women and young people leadership, ActionAid trained 32 (29 female) targeting and appeal hearing committee members for the humanitarian response management. Meresaeta was among them. She was targeted in the humanitarian support based on the project criteria and she has also become voice for other physically impaired people in here Kebele.

The support included 1,280 quintals of maize and 12,840 litres of edible oil.. The donating partners for this response were ActionAid UK through players of post code lottery (PPL) and ActionAid Sweden through International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) of ActionAid International.

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Meresaeta was selected for the support because she was unable to feed her two daughters. Her father used to help her in good times by sharing grains from his farm which has now run dry due to the drought.

*“I was selected as I was in dire condition. In general, the community and the district’s stakeholders were happy because the whole process was led by women and young people. I used to afford the expenses of my family with my café business, but this year the customers could not afford to pay for the coffee, tea and soda drinks I sell as their income has turned nil due to the drought. I have received maize and edible oil enough to feed my family for 3 months. With out this support I can’t imagine how desperate would be the life of my household. Hence, I would like to heartfully thank ActionAid for reaching me in this difficult time,” she concluded.*

## Agroecological Clean Business by Young People

*- Government Gives 3000m2of land to ActionAid Ethiopia to Demonstrate Agroecology*

**A**meya Lelistu’ is a group of young people with 17 members (7females) organized initially to manage nursery site on about 200sq.meter plot of land. ‘Cheffe’ is an agroecology centre laid on about two and half hectare of land owned by three groups of youths with a total member of 42(16Females) including Ameya Lelistu group of youth.

Established by Ameya Lelistu youth group for environmental protection purpose, Gindo nursery site has grown different vegetable crops, fruit and tree seedling and sold them to different institutions and individuals. The group has earned more than 95,000.00ETB from sell of different vegetable crops, papaya seedling and grevilia seedling.



*Teshome, one of the members of 'Ameya Lelistu' Group, has started his own green business. He is seen preparing compost for his green farm business.*



## Young Entrepreneurs on Eco-friendly Business

Following the training and experience they gained from their group, individual young people adopted and expanded the eco-friendly business to their village level. Teshome Barecha is one among the young entrepreneurs of agro ecology group started clean business in his family compound by preparing nursery site for vegetables and fruit plants.

Teshome Barecha, a 28-year young entrepreneur lives with his relatives. Inspired and motivated by the training on agroecology given by ActionAid Ethiopia, he started growing vegetables and fruit seedling on his family's small plot of land. He also produces organic fertilizer from manure and compost. His income increased after taking the training that enabled him to grow vegetables and fruit for business. He earned 20,000 Birr (£290.4) from the sale of 5m<sup>3</sup> of compost. Now he has upgraded his plot to a temporary nursery for vegetables cabbage head, tomato, and red onion.

With the initiative of ActionAid Ethiopia and great collaboration of government sector offices, 61 young people (37 female & 24male) were organized into of 5 agroecology groups and ActionAid provided capacity building training on small scale irrigation management, climate resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA) principle and practice of agroecology by investing more than 317,000 Birr (£4,603). This includes the supply of inputs such as water pump with complete accessories and different vegetable seeds like potato, local maize, tomato, head cabbage, beet root, carrot, local cabbage, etc.

Inspired by the achievement of the eco-friendly business, the town municipality has granted 3000m<sup>2</sup> of land to ActionAid Ameya LRP to use it as a demonstration site.

## “Me and my daughter to be Exemplary for my neighbours and community.”

Feyine is a 45-year-old divorced woman living in Daba Medhanialem Kebele of Elfeta district. She lives with her two daughters and a son. She has never gone to school in her age but now she is attending Functional Adult Literacy through ActionAid Ethiopia's program. Her daughters Aster and Abezu are attending 9th and 7th grades respectively, and they are outstanding students. 'In the past, sending girls to school was seen as shameful act and non-valuable investment and even now in our community.

Most of our community prefer their daughters to get married rather than teaching them because they see marriage as a privilege, source of asset (dowry), respect and social bond formation particularly in rural areas like ours. This way of thinking highly harmed our daughters and forced them to be dependent either on their family or on their husbands in all aspects of life.



Even though it is difficult to reverse the previously occurred gender-based violence due to the backward way of thinking, the positive fate our daughters are now in our hand by teaching and encouraging them. In the olden times, getting Gabi (traditional blanket made of cotton) as a gift was made only when daughters get married. After ActionAid came to our villages, all these changed. After they (ActionAid) gave us awareness.



*“I am very much happy for I am given the award due to my daughters’ high academic performance. The solar bulbs and Gabi (traditional blanket) given for us as a reward motivate me and my daughter to be exemplary for my neighbors and community.”- Mrs. Feyinne after taking the award. (Photo: Feyinne and her daughters taking the awards given by ActionAid)*

On the benefit of education and the negative consequences of early marriage, most of our community started sending their daughters to school. They also motivated us by giving awards to those girls who are outstanding in their school performance,” Feyinne said.

Education is one of the major thematic areas ActionAid Ethiopia focuses on to improve the right to education of young girls. In its Local Right Programmes like the one in Elfeta Woreda of Western Shoa in Oromia Regional State, ActionAid Ethiopia works with the local government to make schools suitable for girls by constructing additional school blocks and libraries furnished with desks and equipped with books and computers, separate toilets for girls and boys, setting up tutorial classes for girl students, and supply of dignity kits for girl students.

## Structural solutions for quality Education

*January 2024, Genja, Semen Bench, Ethiopia*

Genja Primary School is found in Semen Bench district of South-West Ethiopia Regional State. The school serves 502 girls and 574 boys with 34 teachers

By looking at the inconvenience of the school facilities especially for girl students, ActionAid Ethiopia constructed school library, and separate toilets both for girls and boys through its Semen Bench Local Rights Programme with an outlay of 5.2 million Birr (£75,505). Prior to the newly constructed facilities, it was difficult particularly for girl students to use the toilets with boys. The toilets were too far below standard not only for girls but also for boys too. There was also shortage of space and reference books in the library causing students perform less in their education.



Semen Bench Education Office Head, Mr. Kaju and ActionAid Ethiopia's Semen bench LRP Coordinator, Mr. Hailu inaugurating the new library. (Pic.; ActionAid)



The newly constructed library and the old and new toilet.  
(Photo credit: AAE SemenBench)

Now, thanks to the newly constructed facilities, more students can learn in well-furnished class rooms, use toilets in dignified manner and can spend more time in the attractive library with additional reference books.

ActionAid Ethiopia handed over the newly constructed facilities to Semen Bench woreda (district) Education office in the presence of community leaders, religious and traditional leaders, woreda sector office head and chief administrator Mr. Kaju Abel.

# Ask for More Actions to Stop Gender-Based Violence

Young girls living in Addis Ababa claimed that the government and all non-state actors, civic society organizations in particular, must beef up their efforts to stop gender-based violence manifested in different forms. They urged this in a workshop where they presented their research findings commissioned by ActionAid Ethiopia to representatives of different government agencies and civic society organizations based in Addis Ababa.

Girls-Led Action, a project aimed at ending gender-based violence by empowering young girls, trained these girls drawn from two sub-cities of Addis Ababa in research methodology and gender issues during the COVID 19 shut down and afterwards. Then they made practical research and found all sorts of gender-based violences by the society.



Participants of 'Girls-led Action for the rights of women and girls' workshop. (photo by: AAE Communication)

Their findings mainly indicated that the pandemic COVID 19 and its negative socio-economic impacts scaled up the already wide prevalent gender-based violences on young girls that were forced to stay at home. These findings were also affirmed by other big national and international research institutions. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and CSOs working on women's right were the major stakeholders the young girls forwarded their calls for better coordination to advocate for the ratification of better policies, improvement of public services, and law enforcements so that women and girls can get safer spaces to live, to learn, and to work thereby benefit from inclusive development.

Members of Global Platform, another ActionAid affiliate of young people, staged a short drama that shows the magnitude of vivid and systemic gender-based violence which filled the eyes of many of the participants with tears. At the conclusion of the workshop, representatives of government ministries and CSOs entered commitment to create better network among themselves and government agencies to bolster advocacy efforts to address the demands presented by the young girls.

## ABOUT US

*ActionAid Ethiopia, established in 1989, is a Gender Justice, good governance 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, ensured 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.*

## 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

## FIND US

**ActionAid Ethiopia**

*Tel.: +251 932025053*

*Email: [comms.ethiopia@actionaid.org](mailto:comms.ethiopia@actionaid.org)*

*Address: Lemi Kura Sub-city, Woreda 13,  
House Number 3044, Addis Ababa, ethiopia*

 [ethiopia.actionaid.org](http://ethiopia.actionaid.org)

 [@ActionAidE](https://twitter.com/ActionAidE)

 [@ActionAid Ethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidEthiopia)

 [Comms.Ethiopia@actionaid.org](mailto:Comms.Ethiopia@actionaid.org)

