

## ActionAid Ethiopia wins 2018/2019

# Best Performer's Award



*ActionAid Ethiopia's Seru Development Area team with the trophy and certificate of appreciation awarded to ActionAid by Arsi Zone Administration (Photo: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)*

News update

**A**ssela, Oromia, Ethiopia, Sep., 2019: ActionAid Ethiopia is picked as the best performer out of 34 international and national NGOs operating in Arsi zone of Oromia regional state. This recognition and best performer of the year 2018/2019 award was given to ActionAid for its commendable achievement in its undertakings in Seru district of the zone in the Annual Forum Meeting of GOs and NGOs held in Assela

town on September 03, 2019.

ActionAid Ethiopia's Seru Development Area team with the trophy and certificate

of appreciation awarded to ActionAid by Arsi Zone Administration (Photo: Hailu Nurga/ ActionAid)

In Seru woreda, where poverty and gender injustice combined with large swaths of harmful traditional practices prevail, ActionAid, hand in hand with the community, local administrative bodies and other stakeholders, has laid the ground to bring significant changes in the lives of thousands of women and their families. These changes paved the way for women and girls to participate and

make decisions on social, economic and human practices of their localities and the impacts on the lives of women and girls in all terms is seen clearly these days.

Cognizant of this, Arsi zone (Oromia, Ethiopia) in its annual GO-NGO (governmental and non-governmental organizations) forum meeting held in Assela town, picked ActionAid as the best performer among 34 International and Local NGOs operating in the Zone. Present in the forum meeting were Regional, Zonal and 26 Woreda/District government officials as well as heads of NOGs operating in the Zone.

### ActionAid Ethiopia and Christian Aid Ethiopia Sign MOU



Country Directors of the two counterparts after signing the MOU (Photo: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)

August 2019, Addis Ababa- Christian Aid Ethiopia and ActionAid Ethiopia signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together to challenge structural cause of poverty and to help in practical ways to root it out from Ethiopia.

In the MOU, it was stated that both parties aspire to work jointly for advancing increased resilience of communities to the impacts of natural and manmade disasters in the country. Moreover, the two parties agreed to collaborate in mobilizing resources, as appropriate implement development and humanitarian interventions jointly, pilot new and scalable concepts, strategies and

approaches, and jointly advocate on issues that affect resilience of our communities and influence policies and strategies accordingly. Tinebeb Berhane and Yitna Tekalegn, Country Directors of ActionAid Ethiopia and Christian Aid Ethiopia respectively signed the memorandum of understanding.

Contributed by: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid

## Ammeya becomes the youngest Development Area



On their way to Ammeya, ActionAid Ethiopia's senior management team was stranded for about three hours at a small bridge overflowed by a crossing river due to the heavy rainy season (Photo: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)

September 2019, Ammeya- In a move to transform institutions and structures in Ameya woreda that strengthen the ability of communities, mainly women to cope with, mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change on their food systems and livelihoods, ActionAid Ethiopia has started its operation in Ammeya woreda/district of West Shoa of Oromia regional state. As it always does, ActionAid entered this village after making a thorough assessment applying different socio-economic indexes and reaching on consensus with the relevant stakeholders mainly with the regional and zonal government bodies of Oromia.

On their way to Ammeya, ActionAid Ethiopia's senior management team was stranded for about three hours at a small bridge overflowed by a crossing river due to the heavy rainy season

On the day when the programme was to be launched, thousands of people residing in Ammeya town and its surroundings welcomed the leaderships of ActionAid Ethiopia and regional and zonal government bodies with big feast including horse parade and cultural songs.

On her opening remark, ActionAid Ethiopia's Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane, stated that AAE is excited to work with all





*Zonal, Woreda and ActionAid Leadership making discussion with community on the way forward*

*Geda Leaders blessing the Programme Launch (Pic. By Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)*

stakeholders in the district to fight poverty and widespread harmful traditional practices that are blocking women and girls from all their right to live safely and happily, to learn, to possess, to decide and to lead as any citizen of the nation. "The fact that ActionAid has ratified its 5th Country Strategic Plan, Ammeya would be fortunate to nurture from the experiences of ActionAid Ethiopia's three decades programme implementation approaches," Tinebeb noted.

A Woman expressing her pleasure for ActionAid Ethiopia has made the decision to come to their village

All representatives of the government bodies expressed their determination to do all their best for the success of the four and half year's development programme with an outlay of more than seventeen million Birr.

Meanwhile, leaders of Women Watch Groups, Women Saving and Credit Cooperatives, and Water Schemes drawn from other parts of Ethiopia where ActionAid has been working

with them have shared their experiences to participants of the launching event.



*A Woman expressing her pleasure for ActionAid Ethiopia has made the decision to come to their village*





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## Seru loses its transformative woman, Dinsire

Seru, Oromia, Ethiopia, Sep., 2019: Years ago, Seru district of Arsi zone (Oromia, Ethiopia) was known for its high prevalence of harmful traditional practices that forced women and girls to lead miserable life, in addition to the acute poverty. This was the reality when ActionAid knocked the doors of economic and gender injustice in the area. A while after the start of coordinated efforts to eradicate these social evils, however, it was crystal clear that

women do have the lust and capacity to lead socially and economically dignified life. Dinsire was one of heroine women who proved this fact from the outset of the intervention ActionAid Ethiopia undertook together with different governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the area. Dinsire was a very strong woman determined to abolish harmful traditional practices from



Dinsire, happy with her growth (Photo: ActionAid)

her community. Being a role model, she played crucial role in the pursuit of eradicating female circumcision and wife inheritance from her village. She lost her husband 13 years ago. He

left her with 8 children (all girls). When her husband died, there were some possessions for the family including farm and few cattle to live on. Traditionally, she was expected

to be inherited as a wife by her brother in-law and submit the possessions to him as well. But she refused to do so and became a member of Waltai village Women Watch Group organized, well trained, and deployed by ActionAid. This paved the way to her to fight against the cruel traditions until the end of her life. On top of refusing to give up her possessions and herself to her brother in-law, she continued struggling to convince the villagers to avoid the tradition of circumcising girls holding big feasts and rituals, which was usually done a month ahead of the wedding day. She demonstrated her own practical role modeling by convincing her daughter (Meko Aman) and her would be son in-law to conclude their marriage without undergoing the ritual of publicly undertaking circumcision. Moved by her courage and determination, her fellow villagers have wiped out female circumcision from the village and made it history, not a social practice. Not only this, Dinsire was the first ever woman to break the traditional law of disallowing women to sell assets such as oxen, cows, and the like in the local markets. In case a woman wanted to sell her such possessions in the market, she must approach a man to help her in the selling process. Otherwise, her price negotiation and decision will not be considered valid by men. Dinsire considered this as an insult and decided to open this closed door for women. Few years ago, she took an ox she fattened for resale in Seru market. Oxen merchants were attracted to buy the ox and learnt that it belonged to a woman, Dinsire. They advised her to find a man to negotiate on behalf of her, but she firmly refused mentioning she would never beg a man to negotiate on her behalf. She stood firm till down and finally, the merchants gave up and decided to pay the

price she set. Now a days, women can do so since Dinsire's victorious story was widely told across the area.

While these were some of the social battlefields Dinsire won, she was defeated by an accidental death caused by a car accident while working in her farmland located at a short distance from her living village, Waltai, on August 1, 2019. Unfortunately, Dinsire's adversaries are still not dead all in all. Even at this moment, some of them are found to disturb her children (challenging them) to leave their possessions abandoning the land that used to belong to her simply because they are girls, not boys. This is heart-breaking. The Local Rights Programme (LRP) organized a general meeting with her fellow women watch groups (WWGs) members found in the woreda a month ago (where 110 were present) to commemorate her and discussed the issue in the presence of some officials. They expressed their determination to continue with Dinsire's legacy, to support her children to protect their rights and called for the officials to help them too. They made also financial contribution to support her children (all girls). In a related news, ActionAid Ethiopia staff have showed their solidarity with the late Dinsire's family by making financial contribution to her children while ActionAid Ethiopia has vowed to stand by the family and the women watch group Dinsire used to belong to by supporting them with legal services through Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association to defend their rights in case of illegal moves towards their rights and possessions at any time.

*Contributed by: Berhanu Diro and Hailu Nurga (ActionAid)*



## Beke Pre-school completes its 1st year Service



Elfeta, Oromia regional state, July 2019: There was no any government or private owned preschool in the area before the construction of one by ActionAid in 2018. The preschool building that meets its standard for the purpose, has been completed in 2018 in two town: Beke and Gute. Beke town preschool has started giving service for about 360 children immediately after completion of the building since the government has completed the staffing process before the finalization of construction of classrooms.

For the children and parents in the area, the event was very special as this is the 1st time to see such standardized service to their preschool age children. The children in the school presented different entertaining shows to their parents on the event.

Parents of the children expressed their feeling and the value it adds for the people of Beke town particularly on the future academic performance of their children. Mothers whose children are attending at the pre-school expressed their thankfulness for the pre-school for it enabled

them to use their time for other productive purposes than looking after their children. They further stated that this has even paved the way to engage on income generating activities to improve their economic status. Mr. Melka Negasa, the chairman of parents' committee thanked ActionAid Ethiopia for this opportunity and added that the committee will complete the already started fund raising from community to construct the fence.

*(Article and picture by: Alemnesh Tadesse/  
ActionAid)*

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## **Sponsors Happy with the impact of their support in Elfeta and Grarjarao Development Areas**



Elfeta, Oromia, Ethiopia, May 2019: A group of seven sponsors from ActionAid Italy visited Elfeta and Girar Jarso from 27-25 April 2019. The main aim was to visit sponsored children and their community and witness programme achievements at both Local Rights Programmes/Development Areas. The team made home-to-home visit to sponsored children and the additional school blocks constructed by ActionAid Ethiopia. They also thoroughly discussed with leaders of Women Saving and Credit Cooperatives during their visit in Girar Jarso development area.

In Elfeta development area, the team enjoyed warm welcoming ceremony by the community and government bodies. The big ceremony was held in a school compound with the presence of government officials, school community, women and children.

Two among the sponsored children with their families were part of the ceremony at the school and had exciting moments with their supporters. As part of the welcoming ceremony, different talent shows, and songs were presented by the children and school community with cultural food.

*Contributed by: Dawit Eshete/ActionAid*

## **Africa Regional Conference on Localization held in AU HQ**



Addis Ababa, July -2019 With the objective of ensuring Women Led emergency preparedness, response and recovery, ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) along with its long-term civil society partners, was represented in the Africa Regional Conference on Localization from July 12th-17th, 2019 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. AAE was also an active player in regional civil society consultations organized by the UN WOMEN, CARE and the AU, also known as Friends of Gender. These platforms are part of the ongoing commitments to recognize the roles of local actors, particularly women and girls, in leading emergency preparedness, response and recovery. While Ethiopia is one of the leading African countries in internally displaced persons (IDPs) and related humanitarian crisis in 2019, AAE can leverage AU's presence and its geopolitical significance in the region to engage itself in advocacy and policy dialogue and position itself as a center of excellence. The event has also opened golden opportunity for continued dialogue with funding partners and strategic partnership with UN WOMEN, CCRDA, ECHO and CARE.

*(Contributed by: Lamrot Fikre/ActionAid)*



## ActionAid Ethiopia participates in National Tree Seedling Planting Campaign



ActionAid Ethiopia's Elfeta Development Area staff planting seedlings in AAE's office compound on the occasion of National seedling planting day

July 2019, Addis Ababa/Ethiopia)- In response to the national call by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D), staff of ActionAid Ethiopia participated in the massive national tree planting campaign that was initiated by the premier himself in May 2019. AAE head office staff planted hundreds of seedlings in western outskirts of Addis Ababa joining the team of non-governmental organizations organized by Consortium of Christian Relief Development Association (CCRDA).

Guna Development Area staff planting seedlings in their surroundings on the national campaign day.

Nationwide, it has been reported that people all over Ethiopia have planted more than two hundred million seedlings in a single day on July 29,2019 making it world record.

The campaign was part of 'Green Legacy", which is a project targeting to improve Ethiopia's forest coverage by planting 4 billion tree seedlings in one year.

(Contributed by: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)



Guna Development Area staff planting seedlings in their surroundings on the national campaign day.

## ActionAid plays stake in Great Ethiopian Run 2019

Addis Ababa, June 2019, ActionAid Ethiopia joined the team of Great Ethiopian Run this year. The major course of this years' Ethiopian Great Run will be hosted in Addis on November 2019 ,17. About 50,000 people will be jogging in the streets of the seat of African Union. This internationally acclaimed sport event is known for its entertaining activities, roadside music shows, and a good outlet for public messages on health, gender, peace, etc. ActionAid joined the team as one of the sponsors making it the second international NGO in the sponsors' group.



World long distance iconic athlete Haile Gebressilassie, Board Chairman of Great Ethiopian Run, briefing stakeholders on 2019 edition of Great Ethiopia Run (Photo: Hailu Nurga/ActionAid)





## 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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