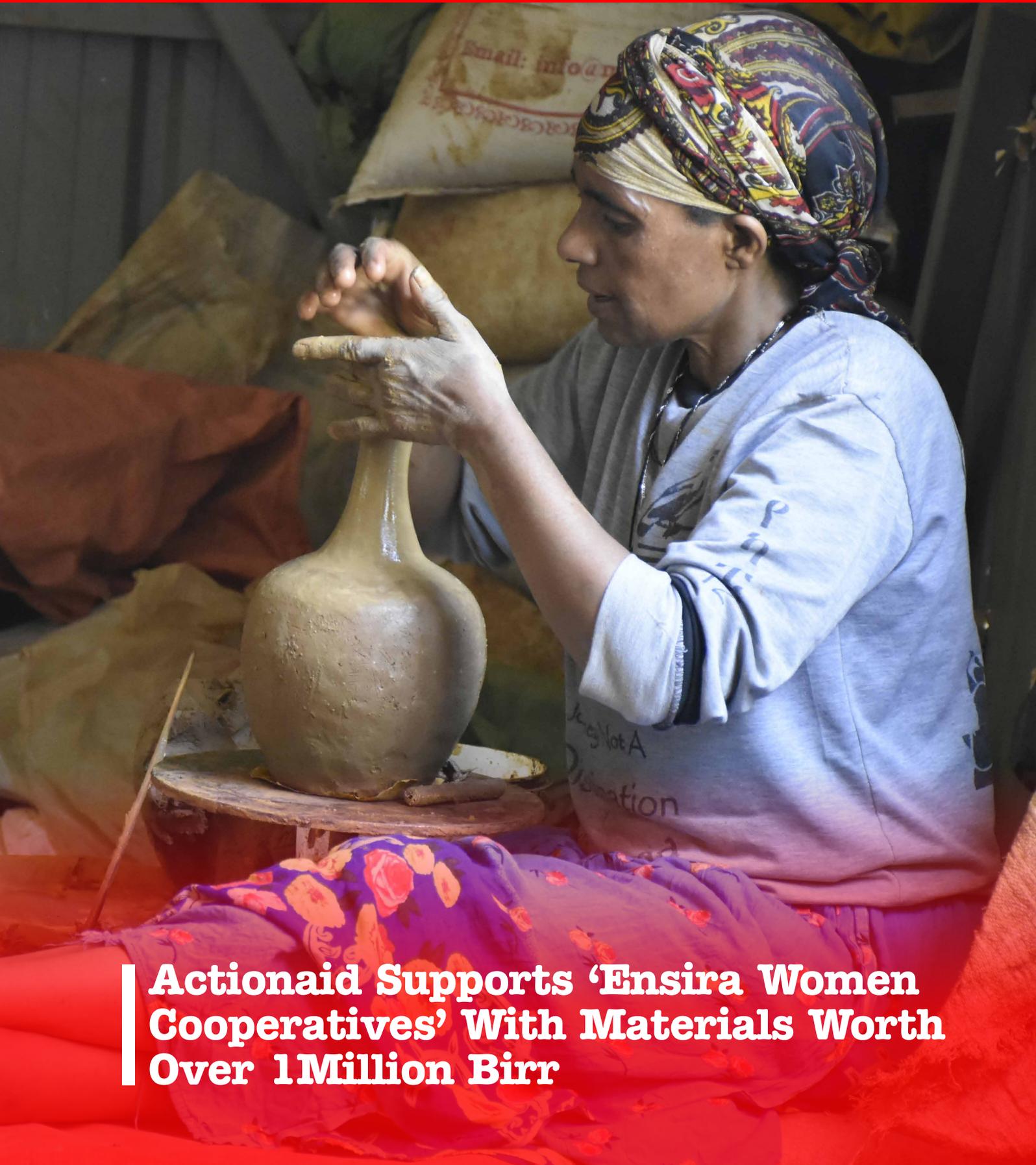


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Newsletter
Ethiopia Country Program

January 2023

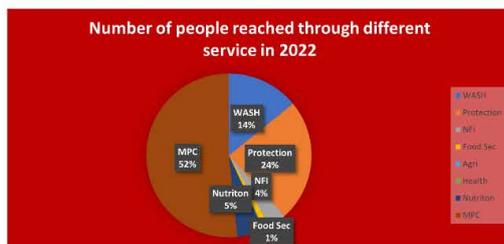
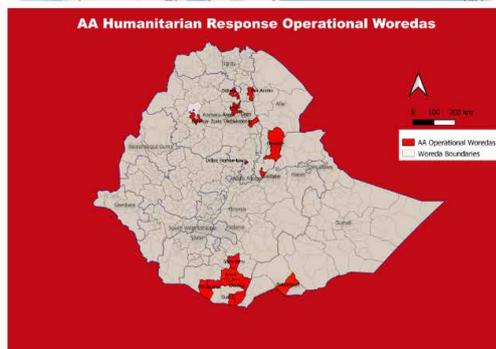
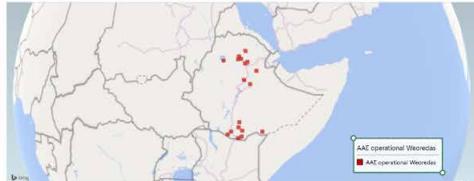
Power in People Power in People



Actionaid Supports 'Ensira Women Cooperatives' With Materials Worth Over 1 Million Birr

Ethiopian Humanitarian Update 2022

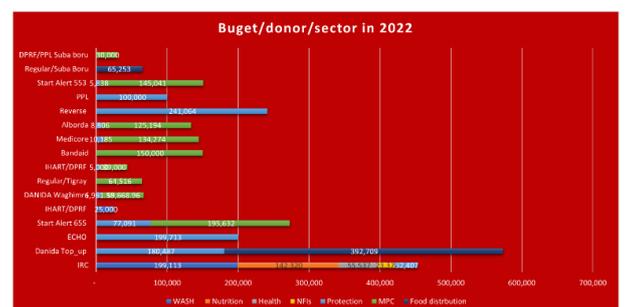
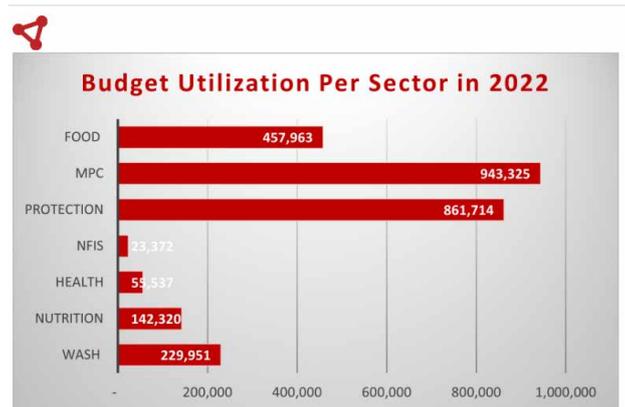
- People Reached 60,294 out of 90% are females
- Amount of Funds 2,714,181 Pound Sterling



ActionAid has been responding to disaster affected communities in Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somali Regional State. The response focuses on the host communities, internally displaced peoples, and cross border migrants. ActionAid's humanitarian response is anchored on core humanitarian standard and ActionAid's humanitarian signature, which presupposes the leadership of disaster affected youth and women, accountability to the affected community and shifting the power. Hence, most of the humanitarian response is carried out in partnership with the local actors.

According to ActionAid system of alert levels, the humanitarian crisis, north conflict affected areas are categorized as yellow and drought affected South and southeastern areas are categorized as read alert. Hence, it requires critical measures by the international and local actors. According to the revised drought response plan of Ethiopia there are about 24 million people affected by drought and in order to responds about 1.66 billion USD are required, out of which ActionAid has raised about 3.3 million USD which is about 0.1% of the national response plan. ActionAid's response focuses on Northern conflict affected communities

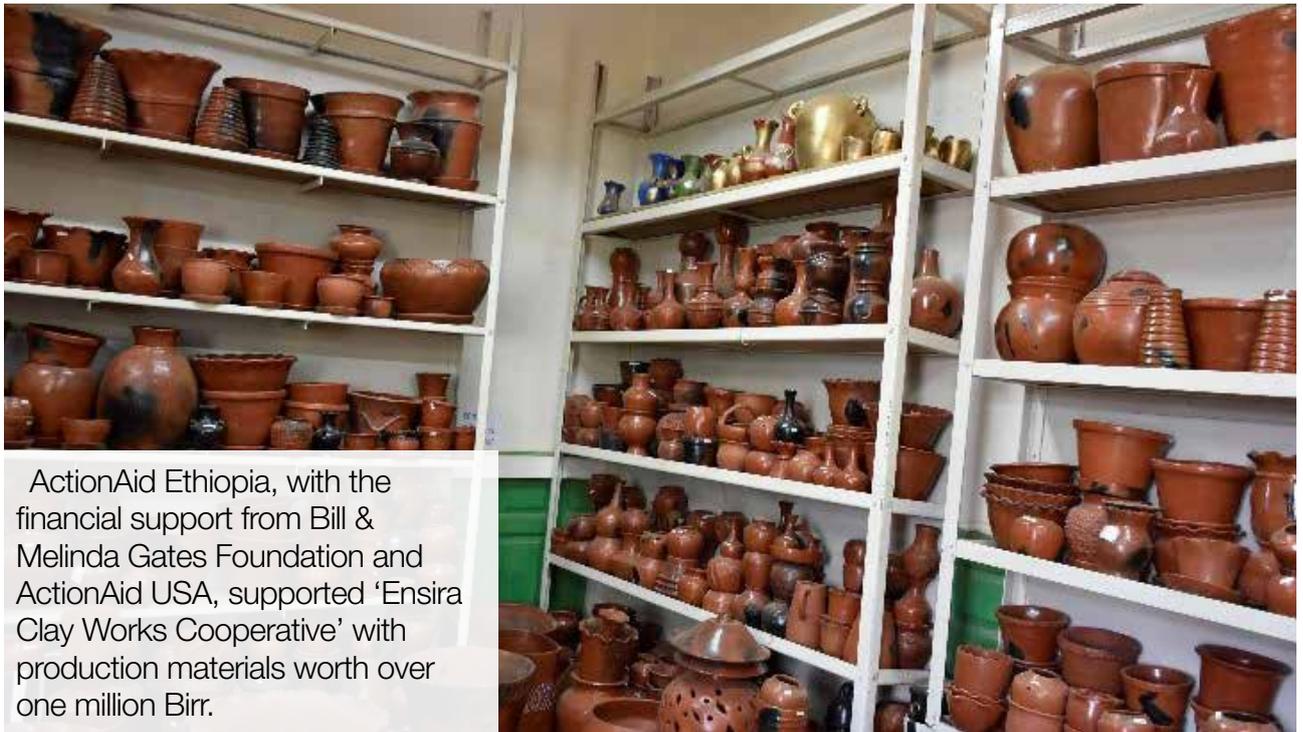
- In South Tigray particularly in Raya Azebo, and Chercher through multipurpose cash
- In North Wollo, Kobo, Jara IDP. Lasta, Gazo and Angut, in South Wollo Dessi, Tehulederi and Werebabo through multipurpose cash, protection of gender-based violence.
- Waghimra zone Sekota IDP with MPC protection GBV
- In North Showa Ephratan Gedem protection mainstreaming and Debre-Brehan multipurpose cash and protection services for the IDPS,
- In Afar Gulina, Chifra, Gewane and Amibara Multipurpose cash and protection
- In Borena and Guji zone Suba Boru, Arero, Watchile, Dilo, Guchi, Dubluk and Moyale emergency food, MPC WASH, Health, Nutrition and targeted mainstreaming
- All emergency response both in kind and cash supports are for about four months



Nov 2022, Addis Ababa

Actionaid Supports 'Ensira Women Cooperatives' With Materials Worth Over 1Million Birr

- The support creates decent work, better health, and better productivity for the right holders



ActionAid Ethiopia, with the financial support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and ActionAid USA, supported 'Ensira Clay Works Cooperative' with production materials worth over one million Birr.

The equipment included chairs, tables, wheel/rollers, mixer-crusher, and burner. The Co-operative has about 300 members that produce traditional pottery products that range from a very small coffee-spoon up to big-sized clay-made cookers. Most of the women work in health-hazardous, time consuming, and labor-intensive condition

“WHEN I SEE THIS BURNER, I ALWAYS REMEMBER A FRIEND OF US WHO PASSED AWAY LEAVING BEHIND HER CHILDREN FEW YEARS BACK DUE TO THE SMOKE SHE WAS SUFFOCATED WITH WHILE WORKING WITH THE BURNER. THIS MACHINE ACTIONAID BOUGHT US WILL MAKE BIG CHANGE ON OUR HEALTH, OUR INCOME, AND OUR CHILDREN”



Fig. ActionAid Ethiopia's Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane expressing ActioAid's solidarity with Ensira Cooperative. Representatives of Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and Ethiopian Civil Society Forum were also in attendance during the ceremony (Picture by: Hailu Nurga/AAE)



Members of Ensira Cooperative burning and smoking the clay products for finalizing their produce (Photo: Hailu Nurga/AAE)

Back in September 2022, amidst a workshop on Women Economic Empowerment sponsored by UN WOMEN and ActionAid, Ms. Fanos, Deputy Manager of the cooperative, explained about the situation her colleagues were working in and ActionAid brought that to its attention and decided to visit the workplace to do what it could. During the visit by senior management team of ActionAid Ethiopia, the hard-working women pointed that they would prefer to be supported with chairs, tables, wheel/roller, crusher/mixer, and burner. As a proof for ActionAid that it walks what it talks, it did support what it promised to create decent work environment for the 300 hard-working women.

Country Director of ActionAid Ethiopia, Tinebeb Berhane, during a handover ceremony at the cooperative site, stated that ActionAid Ethiopia considers itself as a duty-bearer for the econom-

ic and social empowerment of women and girls and that the support it gave to Ensira Cooperative was very little as compared to the decent work condition the cooperative.



The clay works get naturally dried in the sun first before they are taken to smoke and dye section (Photo: Hailu Nurga/AAE)

Members deserve. She further noted that as the clay products produced by the cooperative are not getting the right market linkage both locally and internationally, government and non-government agencies should find ways to shorten the supply chain so that middle market actors do not snatch the income of these strong women.

Contributed by: Hailu Nurga/AAE

Actionaid Ethiopia Supports 8,750 Internally Displaced Persons Sheltered In Debrebirhan



Training on ActionAid's Core Humanitarian Principles

ActionAid Ethiopia with the financial support from Start Fund and in collaboration with Professional's Alliance for Development (PaDET) supported 8,750 internally displaced persons (IDPs) that are temporarily sheltered in two main camps (China Center IDP site and Woyneshet Paper Factory IDP site in Debrebirhan town of Amhara regional state. The IDPs were forced to leave their living areas due to internal conflicts.

Prior to the support, sequential meetings with relevant government officials were made and training on ActionAid's Core Humanitarian Principles, Standards and Humanitarian Signatures were provided to North Showa administration stakeholders and IDP Targeting Committee members. In these meetings and training, women-led targeting committee members were elected and the amount of cash support per person and the type of dignity material support were decided. After the training, women-led targeting committee selected the actual targets following participatory approach by engaging affected community. Accordingly, the targeting committee

Decided to distribute 800Br/person, solar torch and multi-purpose soap as dignity supplies as sanitary pads were distributed by other humanitarian organizations.

ActionAid Ethiopia's senior management team led by Country Director Tinebeb Berhane visited the affected community to observe the overall humanitarian emergency response and express its solidarity with the affected right holders.



Picture (left): Staffs of ActionAid and PADET distributing cash to right holders; (Right) ActionAid Ethiopia's Senior management and Humanitarian team holding meeting with government officials

Contributed by: Mekdelawit Girma/A&E

International Children's Day Celebrated

Higher Officials had dialogue session with Menja Community Members

ActionAid Ethiopia in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Social Affairs celebrated International Children's Day on November 20, 2022 at Southwest Ethiopia Peoples' Regional State, Mizan Aman City at national level.

High ranking officials of the Federal government, Her Excellency Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD, Minister of Women and Social Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Her Excellency W/ro Alemitu Umut, FDRE Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Women and Children's Minister d'État, Her Excellency W/ro Una Ahimed, FDRE Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Youth Sector Minister d'État, Regional Bureau Heads and Heads of Zonal Offices, about 500 children and, local and representatives of international civil service organization CSOs were in attendance on the occasion.

ActionAid Ethiopia team used this offer of collaboration to bring on board issues of child labor to the attention of government actors, CSOs and members of Child Parliament in the region.

ActionAid Ethiopia represented by Elizabeth Getachew, Manager of AA-NORAD Project (a three year project funded by Norwegian Development Agency and implemented by ActionAid Ethiopia working on abolishing child labor, exploitation, human trafficking, and abuse, and creating descent work) delivered key-note address by acknowledging positive steps taken to protect children's rights from exploitation and calling for allocation of adequate and solution-oriented use of resources (human, financial and material) by the government and CSOs to tackle cases of child labor exploitation.

Facilitated by ActionAid Ethiopia, members of Menja community (marginalized group in the area) have had discussion session with Her Excellency W/ro Alemitu Umut, FDRE Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Women and Children's State Minister. It was an opportune moment for them to discuss with a high-level government official to tell their progress so far due to interventions of ActionAid and presented their issues for further improvements.



Representative of ActionAid Ethiopia receiving Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD, Minister of Women and Social Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for organizing International Children's Day

H.E. W/ro Alemitu also listened attentively to their views and encouraged them to resist undermining remarks and practices committed by their fellow community members and/or any other person. She also pledged unreserved support from government structures at different levels. Finally ActionAid acknowledged the Ministry for its offer of collaboration, and organizers of the event support for children whose parents cannot afford school materials and dignity kits.

**Contributed by: Elisabeth Getachew, AAE,
CMS Project Manager**

Child/survivor-friendly Court Room Renovated

Gender Based Violence (GBV) has continued to cause problems on sexual and reproductive; physical; psychosocial, and general wellbeing of girls and women in Ethiopia. Falling victims to this ailment, survivors are oftentimes double victimized by intimidation and unresponsiveness aside from the inaccessibility of appropriate services.

A Survivor-Centered Approach (SCA) is one that aims at prioritizing the needs of survivors of violence and seeks to empower the survivor by working for respect to their rights for access to appropriate and quality services which include health, security, psychological and legal among others. Hence it calls for all actors involved in service delivery to be supportive by having appropriate attitudes, knowledge, and skills to ensure treatment of the survivor with dignity and support for recovery and reintegration. To support the work in creation of access to justice for survivors from Micro-to national level through strengthened referral system for survivors of GBV, AAE with the support of Irish Aid engaged with the federal first instance court of Kirkos Bench in Addis Ababa to pilot an audio system supported glass rooms with waiting spaces to ensure child survivor friendly court rooms.



Before the support, due to system breakdown, it had been challenging to adjudicate such cases and there was backlog and pending cases for months and even years with survivors not getting justice and delayed recoveries from trauma whereas perpetrators continue going around unpunished.

Renovating the court room and furnishing with child friendly couches, mat, and toys beyond creating a relaxing vibe eases the stress of the formal court set up for the children to remember and accurately describe the GBV crimes inflicted on them with the support of social workers and through the audio systems to the judges. One of the rooms allows the judge to see the children when they are explaining the cases without them seeing. The glazing windows fixed in and the other room for them to see outside without the fear of being seen to accurately identify the perpetrator.



ActionAid Ethiopia's leadership with leadership of Justice Bureau of Addis Ababa in the newly renovated and furnished child-friendly court room.
Photo: Hailu Nurga/AAE

Contributed by: Selamawit Adnew/AAE

Women And Small Holding Farmers Prepare 6000 Cubic Meter Natural Fertilizer

Farmers' day was celebrated in TedoMender kebele of Gunabegemidir district. South Gondar zone high officials, woreda level stakeholders and farmers visited the natural fertilizer preparation status and were surprised by women farmers leadership and engagement on agro-ecological practices through the support of ActionAid Ethiopia, Guna LRP.

Agroecology also known as ecological agriculture, is a way of farming and managing crops, livestock, forests, fisheries that is viable, long-lasting, resilient to climate change, and offers various other environmental, social, and cultural benefits such as addressing food and water scarcity and poverty. ActionAid promotes agroecology since it focuses on empowering farmers, adding value locally and privileging short value chains. Agroecology allows farmers to adapt to climate change, sustainable use and conserve natural resources and biodiversity.

As part of its long-term development intervention, ActionAid Ethiopia introduced agroecological practices in Gunabegemidir district of Atkena, Wukiro and TedoMender kebeles for the last 6 years.



Women and smallholder farmers have been trained on basic concepts of ecological agriculture and are being supported to practice in their farmland through creating access to inputs. Supporting farmers to practice agroecology i.e., improving soil fertility by promoting use of natural fertilizers was one of the focuses of the LRP in the year 2022. After engaging on capacity building training 300 women and smallholder farmers have prepared 6000 m³ plant-based compost and 80 m³ Vermi compost for the upcoming harvesting season. This total amount of natural fertilizers (6080m³) will cover 184.8 hectares of land. ActionAid invested birr 389,702 for the achievement of the initiative.

Contributed by: Mihret Belete/AAE

One of the women famers that were trained by ActionAid explaining about how she is benefiting from preparing natural fertilizer to the participants of the celebration

Commemoration Of African Youth Day

Research reveals all ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1995



As clearly specified in its Country Strategic Plan, ActionAid Ethiopia has given important emphasis to address challenges faced by young people in Ethiopia. Based on this, ActionAid Ethiopia, under its Special Programme Approach (SPA II), has allocated a resource/fund from Action Aid Denmark to support young people in creating youth-led space, climate resilience and crises protection project in its Local Right Programmers, namely, Ameya and Elfeta districts of Oromia region, Gunna district of Amhara region, Semen Bench district of Southwest Region and Addis Ababa. Inspired Ethiopia Youth Association (IEYA), one of the partners of ActionAid Ethiopia for young people programme, has a social media-based initiative with an objective of creating a hopeful, visionary, healthy, successful, and united youth in Ethiopia. This association has taken a new approach by looking at social media as a soft power tool and driver of change in tackling the negative effects of climate change and crises affecting

the community in general and young people. As part of this effort, the association facilitated training workshop to 40 young people on Climate Crisis and its impact on the lives of earth's people with emphasis on young people and the role of social media to advocate for reverting the damage human beings are making on our planet.

The training mainly covered highlights of current trends on climate crisis and the role young people can play to avert it. After having question and answer session with trainers Mr.Desalegn Getnet and Ms. Bezawit participants pledged to take actions to tackle climate change.





**SOME OF THE PLEDGES
YOUNG PEOPLE MADE
AT THE END OF THE
WORKSHOP: _____**



Some of the pledges young people made at the end of the workshop:

- “I pledge to work on my discipline towards the use of plastic bags”
- “I pledge to avoid careless use of water”
- “I will practice strict water conservation methods whenever I use water and I will teach others to do the same”
- “I will practice strict electric power conservation methods whenever I use”
- “I pledge to work on my discipline towards the use of plastic bottles”
- “I pledge to practice strict water conservation methods whenever I use water”
- “I pledge to teach others and transfer the knowledge I learned here”

**Contributed by: Liyuneh Tamirat, Executive Director
of The Inspired Ethiopian Youth Association**

16 Days Of Activism Widely Campaigned Across Actionaid Ethiopia's LRPS

The global theme for this year was #Endfemicide considering the widespread gender-based violence



16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence against women and girls was celebrated for the 17th time in Ethiopia with the objectives of raising awareness about gender-based violence against women and girls as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

As ActionAid, the global theme for this year was #Endfemicide considering the widespread gender-based violence in conflicts such as that in Ethiopia and other parts of the world and the roll backs on women rights.

Across ActionAid LRPs, 16 DOA was campaigned through close collaboration with different sectors of local government,

CSOs and CBOs in the areas.

As part of the campaign, AAE head office a team led by the country director traveled to Debre Berhan where women-led humanitarian response was underway to IDPs from East and West Wollega. AAE has shown solidarity with the women and provided the necessary support during the visit.

In Ameya LRP, community representatives (Elders, religious leaders, government officials, CBOs, student clubs, etc.) participated in the events that were started by elders blessing, then introducing the overall goal and objective of event, presenting different research findings on GBV and 16 days activism cam-

paign. Panel discussion was conducted and finally men participants took pledges 'to protect women and girls from any violence' Duty bearers at Woreda & Zonal levels (Women & Children's Affairs Office, Justice Bureau, and Administrators) promised to enforce existing rules and focus on protection through continued awareness raising.

Likewise, at Shey Bench, which is the newest LRP that started operation since July 2022, 16 days of activism was jointly campaigned with district women children and youth affairs office.

In the event, 150 persons participated from 27 sector offices of which 75 were women. In the panel discussion, women participant demanded equal opportunity and position of female in the political leadership and sector offices; opportunity to join higher education and they exposed the exclusion existing in public sectors.

In reply to the questions raised from the participants, duty bearers presented their plans to increase the number of women leaders in the area and highlighted that women should work hard on earning the academic requirements to assume the leadership positions.

The men participants promised to protect women and girls from violence and assured their commitment by writing and signing

board by the Women, Children and Youth affairs office.

Decha LRP did celebrate 16DOA in the same manner as the other LRPs in collaboration with local women's affairs office. A total of 112 out of which 58 were women and girls participated from school clubs, various community-based organizations, government sector offices, volunteer community facilitators, religious institutions, village level women watch group representatives and Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs.)

Special ceremony of covenant signing by men to pledge to fight GBV was done by the male participants.

Semen Bench LRP on its part organized community members to take collective action against violation against human rights like GBV. As part of empowering the established Women Watch Group (WWG), budget was transferred to them for organizing the "16 Days of Activism" campaign at Woreda level.

The campaign in Semen Bench LRP was planned and carried out by Women Watch Group Forum, Woreda Women, Youth and Children Office and the organized young people. The activities involved awareness raising workshop on different Harmful traditional practices, Life skills training for youths and Workshop on the Family Law and GBV.



Colorful events such as “Family Coffee Ceremony”, Sports competition among School youths and White Ribbon Day with mass marching were the highlights of the campaign.

Compared to the previous year the participation of community members significantly increased and WWF were able to facilitate by signing an agreement with the woreda Administration. For the “Family Coffee Ceremony” the men have demonstrated their solidarity by “making the coffee” to share the burden of women. The community members also were

demanding the government to give due attention during their “Walk for women right event” at White Ribbon Day.

Agreement was also signed with the Woreda Administration to significantly increase the participation of women in decision making positions both at Woreda and Kebele level and women and youths in the woreda council.

To follow up progress on the campaign agendas, Social Accountability Committee was established at woreda level and under-way to be established in all target kebeles.



In Elfeta, 1,500 participants most of which were women made panel discussion on major agendas that included the impact of nearby conflict on increased risks and threats to GBV, child marriage, and rape and its consequences. Discussions were made on causes and consequences of the volatile conflict in the area, what actions were expected from each segment of the community and other stakeholders in the area. School principals held the discussion with woreda representatives in the schools.

During the discussions, common understanding on prevalence of GBV during the

conflict and the socio-cultural causes for harmful traditional practices were also raised. Consensus was finally reached to show solidarity during the conflict crisis and commitment was made by all stakeholders to fight GBV.

In the events, anti GBV poems, songs, word of commitment and provision of dignity kits for girls’ safe rooms were provided.

In Guna LRP, 16 DOA was celebrated with a motto “I will respect a woman and protect her from violence”.



There were 156, of which 80 were women, participants from different levels sectors of women, children and social affairs representatives, administrators, managers, health extension workers, religious leaders, school directors, police officers, representatives from persons with Disabilities; elderly persons association representatives & HIV/AIDS association representatives, HTP elimination committee participated in the event.

16 DOA was also celebrated at regional level on December 27, 2022 where girls from different schools participated and anti-FGM messages on T-shirts and flayers were promoted.

Contributed by: Selamawit Adnew/AAE

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, 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.

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

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