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ActionAid Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

May 2023

Action for Gender Justice, Good Governance, and Poverty Eradication!

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Acronyms

AAE	ActionAid Ethiopia
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CECLAHT	Combatting Exploitation, Child Labor, Abuse and Human Trafficking
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COVID	Corona Virus
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
EFAST	Emergency Fast Action Team
EPR	Emergency Preparedness & Response
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FTCs	Farmers' Training Centers
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IHART	International Humanitarian and Response Team
LRP	Local Rights Program
NEWA	Network of Ethiopian Women Association
PLIP	People Living in Poverty
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RAC	Reflection Action Circle
RaDO	Rehabilitation and Development Organization
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperative
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SMCs	School Management Committees
RCWDO	Rift Valley Children and Women Development Organization
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' National Regional State
UCW	Unpaid Care Work

1 Our Identity

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) is a Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication organization. In Ethiopia, ActionAid works to challenge various forms of power and build capacities to create people agencies of critical mass of communities especially Women, Girls and Young People living in poverty and exclusion to fulfil their rights, ensure redistribution of resources and build their resilience. AAE prioritize to work with Women, Girls and Young People and their organizations, networks, civil society organizations, national and local government, and other allies to overcome gender injustice and structural causes of poverty.

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 through addressing injustice.

AAE is a federation member of ActionAid International and has allied with people living in poverty since 1989 in Ethiopia.



2 Message from the Country Director

Dear readers,

ActionAid Ethiopia strives to deliver its commitment ensure gender justice, good governance, and poverty eradication. This report covers the physical and financial performance of AAE in the year 2022. It is consolidated from the reports of all Local Right Programs (LRPs) and donor funded projects including in those areas that were reached directly and in partnership with a wide range of local civil society organizations across the country. Our capacity building endeavor has also extended to federal, regional and local government institutions.



AAE's adaptive rooted programming and agility enabled us to play a critical role in responding to right holders affected by diverse crises across the country. Our long-term program addressed deep rooted and structural causes of poverty and injustice through community structures and by working with agencies of communities such as Women-led saving and credit cooperatives (SACCO)s, women Watch Groups (WWG)s, Women Protection Groups, young people associations, schools, gender clubs, environmental clubs, and children's parliaments. Our program has also shifted the power from within up to the public space where women and girls enjoyed dignified life. The young people, especially women, got inspired, had space to interact and contributed to social issues that affect them and others. The Human Rights Based Approach principles and intersectionality have framed our programming across. Our participatory methodologies, accountability and transparency principles enabled us to fulfil our multiple responsibilities. AAE also used the opportunity of digitalization for public sensitization on various social and right issues.

In addition to development and humanitarian work that is underpinned by resilience building and our signatures, AAE has been playing pivotal role in civil society space that enabled the sector to flourish, strengthened, become well represented, protected, and played critical national level strategic role in country. The local CSOs capacity have been strengthened through funding, technical support and in providing space for experience sharing and networking that further enhanced the civic space and contributed towards sustainable development. As member of global federation, AAE has been engaging and leading global agenda such as Climate justice through rooted campaigns collectively and challenged global power that affected countries in the global south.

In the years to come ActionAid Ethiopia will continue to contribute towards needs of communities especially by ensuring quadruple nexus of Humanitarian-Climate-Development and Peace building.

Our communities are our proud that sought change in their lives. We applied our courage of conviction to stand by their side and we are delighted to witness their transformed life. Our partners are a means to realize the critical mass of communities and active young citizens that are their constituencies. Our achievement could not have been realized without our donors, supporters, our members of the federation and Global Secretariat. The support and collaboration of local, regional, and federal government was instrumental in achieving our goal for the year 2022.

Wishing peace and tranquility for our nation, I thank you all for your solidarity!

Tinebeb Berhane,
Country Director



3 Organizational Background

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) is a member of ActionAid International Federation 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 integrated development programs in Ethiopia since 1989 and has made significant contribution to the country's development for more than 34 years. It started its operation in Dalocha woreda of Silte zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State and it has progressed to be an organization operating in almost all regional states of Ethiopia across the years through direct and partner implementation. AAE, through its short and long-term right programs, has made significant contributions towards realizing a poverty free Ethiopia where people can enjoy a life of dignity and prosperity.

AAE implements long-term development programs at woreda level alongside other short-term projects amplifying voices of communities to regional, national, and global spaces. In order to ensure sustainability, AAE believes in communities' and their agencies empowerment and establishes 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 organizations, universities, the media, and networks along with critical engagement with government institutions to bring power shift, which otherwise will perpetuate the structural causes of poverty and inequality.

The funds that have been used for the year 2022 were raised from foreign sources mainly from committed individual sponsors from United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Greek and Brazil also from raising high value and institutional funds by means of developing and marketing proposals to various sources such as bi-and multilateral agencies, foundations/organizations, governments, and individual donors through affiliates in AAUK, AA Italy in a strategic partnership with AAE.

3.1

Program Priorities

This report covers results from the four program priorities. During the year, AAE has finalized reviewing and writing up of its Country Strategic Plan (CSPV) resulting in slight changes on focus areas while keeping the program priorities intact.

No	Program	Long term objective	Focus Areas
1	Women and Girls' Rights	Ensuring the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's right to Economic Justice	Focus Area 1: Challenge systemic and structural causes of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in all walks of life in rural and urban Focus Area 2: Ensure the economic justice of women and girls and their agencies.
2	Good Governance and Young People's Engagement	Ensuring Good Governance and increased Civic Participation for respecting rights of citizens and delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS).	Focus Area 1: Ensure Good Governance for delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) Focus Area 2: Ensure the leadership and civic participation of young people in good governance, peace building, social change and democratic processes. Focus Area 3: Institutional Capacity Building for sustainable development and democratization process.
3	Resilient Livelihood and Climate Justice	Strengthening rights to resilient livelihoods and promote climate justice	Focus Area 1: Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA), agroecology and Livelihoods Focus Area 2: Promote Climate Justice
4	Humanitarian	Driving transformative women-led community-based emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and the right to protection	Focus Area 1. Provide Life-Saving Emergency Response. Focus Area 2. Protection programming during Emergency Response and Recovery. Focus Area 3. Build on recovery and resilience of Women, Girls and young people in humanitarian crisis and disaster.

Core Program Priorities as per the Revised Country Strategy Plan (CSPV)

3.2

Long term Vision and Mission



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, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication, by working with Women and Girls, young people and people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations and supporters

3.3

Organizational Values and Principles

AAE's values and principles are enablers to fulfil its vision and mission. The values and principles shape our systems, ways of working and culture to promote the rights, dignity and empowerment of people living in poverty - Women living in poverty, children and youth who reside in rural and urban areas including persons with disabilities. It also closely works with institutions that have demonstrated commitment to the needs and aspirations of these segments of the community. in the process of determined to.

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.

AAE ActionAid Ethiopia is dedicated to applying Human Rights-based Approach(HRBA) and values in our work, which will guide us in interpreting and advancing our mission.

3.4

Core Strategies and Approaches

AAE's work is basically guided primarily by principles of empowering people living in poverty (PLIP), working in solidarity with those who share common purpose for collective action and impact and campaigning. HRBA is the umbrella approach. The 3Rs – Rights, Resilience and Redistribution have framed our program designing. The Intersectional Feminist Analysis approach has also informed deeper analysis and ensures accountability to those excluded and marginalized communities.

In the reporting year, awareness raising and skills building trainings, exposure visits, provision of seed capital and other forms of technical, administrative, and system development interventions have been done mainly targeting women, girls, and young people across the program areas.

AAE has also rigorously worked on building the capacity of its local CSO partners technically and financially. With its lid localization agenda,

Participation: ActionAid believes that ensuring meaningful and informed participation of people living in poverty (PLIP) guarantees success in development endeavors. PLIP, women, children, and youth will continue to be 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) will continue to be employed as avenues for instituting a culture of participatory decision-making. We will also involve our partners and government stakeholders in program development cycles (from inception to evaluation phases) to ensure ownership and sustainability. In the reporting year PRRPs across 7 LRPs and national level have been conducted across our programs – from grassroots to national level among diverse communities, stakeholders, and partners.

Capacity Building: Advancing the capacity and ability of PLIP to unleash their potential to facilitate change and collective power formation to collectivized power. Opportunities will be created to develop people's innate potential. Emphasis will be given to initiating and strengthening CBOs and supporting the creation of collectives (unions, develop people's innate potential. Emphasis will be given to initiating and strengthening CBOs and supporting the creation of collectives (unions, forums, networks, etc.).



Bethlehem Mohammed, one of young girl-researchers trained by ActionAid Ethiopia.

AAE has responded to crises within its operation areas and beyond mainly through capacitating Community based structures and local WROs.

Partnership and Networking: AAE realizes that poverty is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon. As such, AAE stands in solidarity with a range of players including CBOs, CSOs, academic and research institutions, the media and government for greater collaboration and coordination. Emphasis is given to working in partnership with agencies of PLIP at different levels to enhance their institutional capacities to work in solidarity with other pro-poor institutions.



ActionAid Ethiopia conducts National Annual Participatory Review and Reflection with all its partners that work with people living in poverty.



ActionAid supports young people organizations like Inspire Ethiopia Youth Association (IEYA) to bring together young people to digital platform so that, through discussions and networking, they can develop positive attitudes, share experiences and life skills from senior and young citizens thereby play their role for peace and development. (Picture: AAE's CD Tinebeb Berhane receiving Certificate of Appreciation for AAE's support to IEYA from Mr. Jima Dilbo, Director General of FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organizations.)

Knowledge Generation, Documentation, Sharing and Learning

Knowledge generation through conducting research helps to identify development challenges, share best practices, and lay grounds for evidence-based influencing to foster change in thoughts, policies, systems, and practices.

Accordingly, AAE has managed to undertake research and assessments in the areas of Combatting Modern Slavery and Agri Businesses Practices and Human Rights, Assessment on Feasible Alternative Livelihoods; Undertaking Baselines to establish data and milestones for the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) II Project. In addition, AAE has rigorously engaged in rapid assessments in North and South Wollo and Borena to inform its humanitarian actions to the Northern Conflict and the Borena drought respectively. Again, Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessment was conducted in the humanitarian response interventions.

AAE has also conducted a baseline assessment on FGM/c in Afar region.

With the ever growing need to build its excellence in Human Rights Based Approach development programs, AAE managed to provide training on HRBA to its middle level and senior management in collaboration with the Civil Society Academy Africa (CSAA). Moreover, Leadership training has also been provided to the staff in collaboration with the East Africa MS Training Center for Development Cooperation (TCDC) based in Tanzania.

AAE was also able to enhance its staff capacity through attending EFAST training; outcome harvesting organized by GS IHART team and TCDC respectively. Moreover, we have organized a Protection Toolkit Roll out training to Women Protection Groups leaders collectivized in Wollo areas with the support of IHART and AAUK.

National Women Economic Empowerment and Justice Coalition members have been engaged through rigorous process where it was possible to advance their capacities on HRBA; Social Accountability and Advocacy skills. At the end, the coalition managed Advocacy Canvas as a WEEJ Advocacy Road map.

Regular reports have been submitted to responsible government offices at local, regional and national levels.

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 will be given to using information technology to support our mission, especially around grassroots communities. While exploring other feasible options, community radio models will be enhanced. AAE will also strengthen its communication systems and approaches.

Partnership with IMMAP has been established with the aim of advancing capacity building training on information system management; technical support on information management and analysis in our data collection of different types including baseline, need assessment, evaluation and like using digital platforms like Kobo toolbox and Power BI. Accordingly, training was organized for AAE and its partners' staff. This enhanced the technical skills in the application of Kobo toolbox and Power BI in humanitarian PDMs and situation assessments.

Mainstream the Views and Needs of Women, Children and Youth

Every aspect of our development undertakings will be 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 PLIP to 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 but as a 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.



Post-harvest management training being given to LRP Coordinators, government sectoral officers, and representatives of women groups

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 programs play an essential role in modeling innovations for scale up and greater impact.

Operation Areas

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

No	Name of Local Right Program(LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Distance From AA in Km
1	Semen Bench	Semen Bench	Bench Sheko	Southwest Ethiopia	585
2	Shey Bench	Shey Bench	Bench Sheko	Southwest Ethiopia	605
3	Decha(Phased out in 2022)	Decha	Kaffa	Southwest Ethiopia	374
4	Raya Azebo	Raya Azebo	Southern Tigray	Tigray	650
5	Ilfata	Ilfata	West Shoa	Oromia	150
6	Guna Begemidir	Guna Begemidir	South Gondar	Amhara	670
7	Ameya	Ameya	West Shewa	Oromia	144

Table 2: ActionAid Ethiopia Operation Areas – Long Term Local Right Programs (LRPs)

No	Name of Project	Woreda	Zone	Region	Implementing Partner
1.	ALM FGM	Guna and Farta	South Gondor	Amhara	CBOs
2.	ECHO Protection	Tehuledere, Werebabu, Angot and Gazot	North and South Wollo	Amhara	Consortium (AAE, Plan Inter Ethiopia)
3.	PPL Protection	Efratana Gidim; Awash Sebat Killo, Amibara; Lalibella	Zone 3 (Afar) North Shoa, and Lalibella	Amhara; Afar	PADEt; NMWEO, Rohiwadu Women Development Org
4.	PPL FGM	Amibara	Zone 3	Afar	Rohiwadu Women Development Association
5.	SPAII DANIDA ToP Up (Drought)	Wachile	Borena	Oromiya	AFD
6.	ERM IRC Drought	Arero, Dilo, Guchi, Moyale, & Wachile	Borena	Oromia	AAE
7.	USAID Healthy Behaviors	110 woredas (TBD)	-	Amhara, Oromiya, BG, SNNP, Gambella, Addis Ababa	Consortium (AAE, FHI 360, Zeleman, Fraym)
8.	Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPAI)	Eifeta, Ameya, Guna, Semen Bench, Addis Ababa	South and West Shoa; South Gondor; Mizan Tepi	Oromiya, Amhara, Southwest, Addis Ababa	ESA, YWCA, IEYA, SYHLA
9.	Women's Rights Program III (WRPIII)	Semen Bench; Shey Bench and Guna	Mizan Tepi	South-West Region	CBOs, TBD WROs
10.	From Emergency to Resilience (REVERSE Project) Combatting	Awbere and Bokolomayo Refugee camps	Liben and Fafan Zone	Somali	RADO
11.	Exploitation, Abuse, Trafficking and Child Labour	Kuta ber, Harbu Hosaena	Hosaena; Harbu	SNNPR; Amhara	EDA; PHEE, UEWCA, CEHRO

Table 3: AAE Operation Area by Project and Partners

4 AAE's Theory of Change

Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication will be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action to shift unequal and unjust power whether it is hidden, visible or invisible, from household level to local, national, and international levels.

Empowerment of PLIP and exclusion is vital. People's organization through their agencies is critical to drive change that will transform power when led by Women, Girls and Young People and their allies committed to achieve justice, equity, and sustainability. Collective efforts are more impactful when linked through solidarity and influencing between communities, their organizations, and other allies to strengthen the power of people to drive structural change.

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

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

ActionAid Ethiopia has planned and implemented several activities in 2022 as part of fulfilling our theory of change. Our achievements in this reporting period are presented under each program priorities. Best impact and case stories of the year from LRPs are included under each section as evidence to the progress we are making towards achieving our higher-level mission objectives and delivery of our change promises.

5 Key Achievements

5.1 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.

AAE has been working with Women 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 contribute to this objective, several core actions including establishing and strengthening women watch groups(WWG), community discussion/coalition groups, supporting girls club, referral mechanisms, provision of services, organizing and leading women movements, Organize and strengthen women in economic collectives; and building women's individual and collective capacities, promoting and supporting adult literacy program, policy and campaigns/Influencing engagement on unpaid care work at Woreda, Regional and National level, conducting action research and evidence building for policy and campaign engagements have been carried out in this reporting period. In 2022, all our operation areas have implemented different activities and core actions that are exceedingly contributing to protection and promotion of Women's and Girls' Rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). A total of 72,158 target right holders among which 48,908 Female have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this objective and expended ETB 56,290,321.90

Focus Area 1: Ensure the protection and promotion of Women’s and Girls’ Rights from Violence and Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Key achievements:

Strengthened support to women, girls and the agencies of people living in poverty has continued and they have been empowered to challenge VAWG and HTPs, through Women Watch Groups (WWGs); girls’ clubs and school clubs who challenge Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); establish, strengthen and promote referral mechanism; provide services to reduce exposure to VAWG & to promote women’s leadership; organizing and mobilizing women, girls, men, boys, and religious and traditional leaders on various events, different awareness raising sessions at the different woreda, zonal and regional levels.

Advocacy workshops have been conducted with women led CBOs during the celebration led CBOs during the celebration of International Women’s Day. A total of about 5385 (4039 female) right holders in Elfeta have been directly engaged on the different interventions.

In Guna, Elfeta, Semen Bench, Decha and in the new Shey Bench LRPs WWGs have been supported through trainings and office furniture for them to execute their tasks in ensure the rights of women and children, through protection and access to services.

- One resting room for mothers’ seeking justice has been availed in Elfeta. Through Women watch group more than 2000 families have accessed legal services and had their cases settled. More than 29 children were able to escape HTPs and return to school.
- In Semen Bench LRP, policy awareness on SHEA and safeguarding was provided to 100 persons; awareness raising was conducted to 150 customary and religious leaders on combating VAWGs and HTPs in newly established Kebeles; experience sharing visits and linkages of WWGs with community-based organizations like Edirs have been established.



- In Shey Bench, three WWGs were established in Kuka, Tikimt Eshet and Zhazh Kebeles and linkages were created with women-based CBOs, Women Watch Groups and Girls clubs to challenge VAWs and Harmful Practices. Accordingly, 100 women from / schools, SACCOs WWGs and woreda level women structures / from Kuka Tikimit Eshet and Zhazh kebele participated. And experience sharing was conducted for the newly formed WWGs to understand from experienced WWGs in Semen Bench.



Advocacy is the major tool to influence lawmakers to ratify and amend proclamations that hinder the rights of women to lead a dignified and violence-free life. (Picture: Training on Advocacy was given to women leaders of WWGs, SACCOs, and other CBOs.)

- In Shey Bench, collaborative work started with religious, traditional leaders, other male actors and watch groups to eliminate the problem of VAW and HTPs. 130 people out of which 66 women participated in the discussion.
- Gender clubs in Elfeta have been strengthened to challenge violence against women and girls' and harmful traditional practices and to encourage female students to perform well in their academics. Mother's recognition in supporting female students was done through motivational award was provided for 139 people. Schools have been provided with 70 combined desks, teachers seat and blackboards for a newly established school (1-3 grades); reference books to create learning and teaching methodology more feasible and result oriented activities. To fight Violence and women and girls and to ban harmful traditional practices, boy's clubs have been established in 18 schools and provided with capacity building trainings to empower their execution power and create synergy to sound more in working together for the common human right issues.
- In Semen Bench, 100 students (50 girls and 50 boys were targeted for strengthened linkage between girls' clubs and were engaged in transmission of mini media for anti VAWG and HTPs messages transmissions.
- Again, in Semen Bench, two separate toilets; one girls safety room and one hand dug well have been constructed to reduce exposure to VAWGs in Semen Bench and to support education 100 combined desks; tables, chairs and black boards and reference books were provided to newly established schools. 100 outstanding girls were awarded for their performance.



DebreTabor University collaborates with ActionAid Ethiopia by giving legal and psycho-social support to women and girls exposed to gender-based violence while AAE constructs offices for Women Watch Groups, vanguards of women in their localities.

- Four school WASH committees were established in four schools of Semen Bench Woreda, Wala Kebele for improved access to water and hygiene management at the schools.
- Through establishing and promoting networking with different actors like local Universities and zonal justice institutions access to justice have been seen in the area. Free legal support in preparing appeal forms and allegations.
- Through mobilizing and organizing of women, girls, boys, justice institutions, religious and traditional leaders' celebration of March 8 and 16 days of activism have been conducted with fruitful awareness raising sessions in schools, at district center and at zonal level. To fight GBV and HTPs collaboration and synergy had been created with neighboring woredas of the implementation areas.
- Through The Girl Generation support to African Led Movement Support to end FGM, AAE, that started in April 2022, AAE targeted 10 Kebeles in Guna Begemidir and Farta Woredas and started engagement using Girl Centered Approach (GCA) to empower girls to say no to FGM and other VAWGs affecting their lives. Efforts have also started to strengthen community level structures like girls' clubs, WWGs, anti-HTP committees and local government in creating movement.
- Under the WRP II program which ended in December 2022, more than 1000 hard to reach and marginalized women in Guna Begemidir and Decha Woredas had been able to identify what violence means and started to report cases of violence through the established Women Watch Groups; received legal and psychosocial supports. Through Identified harmful practices like child marriages in Guna Begemidir and women/girls sleeping outside during menstruation in Decha were significantly reduced; 14 WWGs were strengthened through provision of trainings; creation of linkages and support for office work in Guna and they are actively engaged in promoting women and girls' personal safety; in Decha 5 women watch groups and 1 Women Watch Forum were strengthened to link survivors along the referral system.
- In Guna Begemidir under the 4 SACCOs the number of women members reached was 1875 all of which are women led. Of those women 1429 have ensured economical security and in Decha there are 6 SACCOs with a total number of 980 members out of which are 500 Menja women.
- AAE commenced a 5 years new project called USAID Healthy Behaviors Activity (UHB) in 2022 which has been implemented in partnership with FHI-360 and other partners. AAE's role in the project is as gender backstop to ensure mainstreaming and inclusion. AAE has been engaged in providing technical support to the UHB which includes reviewing different Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategies, Key message development guides for Malaria, Covid 19 and Cholera in light of ensuring gender transformation. AAE has also been closely working on developing the gender transformative programming integration checklists with FHI-360 HQ teams.
- AAE has finalized the whole process of commencing Gender Equality, Social and youth Inclusion (GESI) Analysis which informs the long years program delivery.



Damenu, with her three children in front of her new house

Change Story

“ActionAid has Opened Our Eyes to see the Positive Part of Life.”

Damenu, 45, is a mother of six children (4F, 2M), aged 30, 26, 22, 17, 12 and 10 years old who lives in Elfeta. She became divorcee when her husband married a second wife. The last three are in school presently in 6th, 4th, and 1st grades doing great in their education. The first three daughters were not as lucky. They did not get education as Damenu was not even able to feed them and send them to school with the necessary materials needed. Due to poverty, Damenu and her children had suffered to fulfil their basic needs.

Five years ago, before joining “Bekemtu” Saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCO), she says her life was full of darkness. She was in a vicious poverty trap in which she struggled to eat and feed her children. She looked for any support she could get from neighbors, ex-husband, a drunkard. She had no social engagement in her community social affairs and was hated by relatives due to poverty.

AAE, Elfeta LRP has been conducting analyses on the root causes and the ways out of poverty with PLIP. By 2018, there was a group of women (25-30 in number) organized by AAE as a Reflection Action Circle (RAC). They had meetings bi-weekly to discuss their socio-economic issues and Damenu was one of those that agreed to join the group.

In that safe space, the women were free to express their feelings, thoughts, and ideas. She was also able to disclose the problems she was facing. She was then provided basic business training together with all the RAC members under the SACCO for access to loan and start business.

Poverty is not a birthmark or a scar. With hard work and dedication, poverty can be made history. AAE’s RAC approach in identifying and analyzing root causes of poverty and power imbalance had been instrumental for this purpose.

Damenu prepared a business plan on farming; vegetable trade; small ruminant fattening, and preparation of local drinks and started in the businesses using loan received from the SACCOs. She became profitable and is now living a happy life. She was able to send her children to school and her capital was estimated to be more than birr 500,000 (8759 Euro). She has planned to build additional house in nearby town to have better access of modern life for her children.

Her children assist her in ploughing; preparing local drinks; fattening sheep and rear cattle, and plough. This family is leading a happy life now. The family has sufficient crops, cattle, and beautiful house.

Number of people engaged/reached with AAE under VAWG

Gender	Children (0 – 14)	Youth (15–30)	Adults (31+)	Total
Male	216	40	2714	2608
Female	389	1394	7266	6912
Total	605	1434	9984	9520

Partners we worked with for this mission objective

Partner/Coalition	Number of partner/coalitions we worked with
Alliance	28 schools (23 primary)3 high schools
Networks	2 universities
CBOs	39 women watch group ,1 woman watch forum
NGOs	
Movements	1 youth group 4 Global platform, SPAII youth Group
Cooperatives	15SACHOs,2 stove producers' group ,3MPCs,1 union
Other	42 sectoral Government offices

Focus Area 2: Ensure women's right to Economic Justice and Unpaid Care Work (UCW)

Key achievements

- In Semen Bench 250 women organized under SACCOs were provided functional adult literacy (FAL). These women are from the Kebeles of Wala, Kasha, Gola, Muyakela and wala and they successfully completed their 1st level FAL program.
- During IWD advocacy of UCW and women rights were conducted to shed light on UCW burden on women to promote redistribution and reduction.
- Two women only SACCOs were established in Endekel and Oka kebele and supported by office material like bench and tables.
- Business skill training was provided for 300 women organized under new SACCOs in Endekel and Oka kebeles in collaboration with cooperative office. Moreover ETB 900,000 revolving fund was distributed for 6 SACCOs to be credited for 300 SACCO women members.
- 100 women SACCO leaders from 8 cooperatives were trained on financial management to Administrate their organization based on cooperative office regulation.
- To address the needs of most excluded Menja communities, based on their diagnosis, 60 Sheep were purchased for 30 Menja women.
- Dialogue was conducted in school PTA on the burden of UCW on women and how it can be redistributed and reduced.
- Three women only SACCOs were established in Kuka, Tikimit Eshet and Zhazh kebele, and all participants trained about business skill trainings in Shey Bench.
- In Elfeta, strengthening and supporting women led economic cooperatives through capacitating their skill gaps, FAL programs for literacy; supporting with seed capital, and creating a platform for exposure visit to ensure collective action has made it possible for the SACCOs to have more than ETB 12,000,000 birr among women SACCOs.

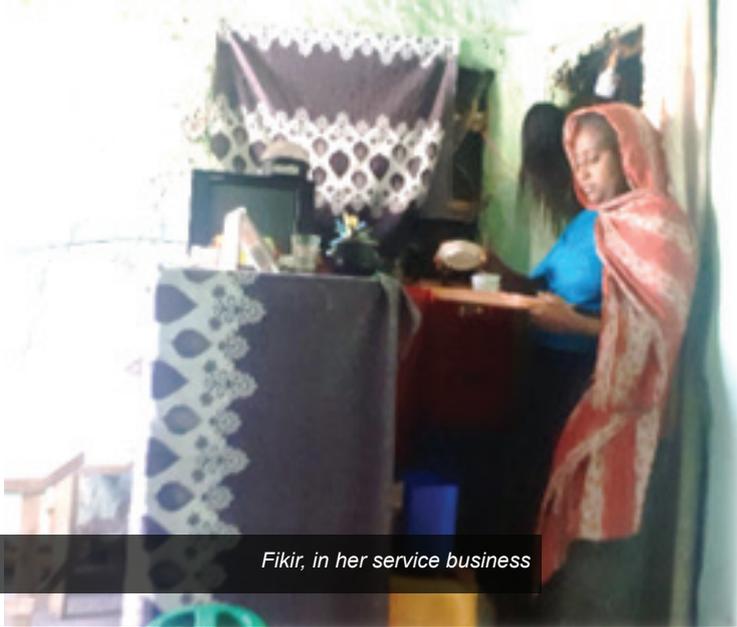
- At National level under the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) project, AAE collaborated with Civil Society Academy Africa (CSA) for selected CSO coalition members to assess WEE framework in Ethiopia from experiences and reports to further identify WEE stakeholders; understand the profile of vulnerable groups; historical background for WEE; the legal and policy framework and the programs and schemes.
- Two rounds of TOT were organized for 35 (27F) representatives from CSOs out of which eight were males. The training focused on transformative feminist leadership and perspective as guiding principle towards WEE advocacy. WEE issues in Ethiopia were identified and advocacy strategy that depicts the advocacy issues, goal, demands, strategies, the stakeholders to engage and the like.
- Cascading trainings were organized to CSOs in sub regional levels 17 (4F) CSO representatives actively working at subnational level on WEE and 24 women leaders from AAE and partner supported women SACCOs. The participants were from Amhara, Oromiya, Southwest and South, Afar, Somali, and from Addis Ababa regions. In addition to advocacy, social accountability was introduced as short-route advocacy mechanism for CSOs to mobilize communities towards the desired changes in prioritized women economic empowerment issues to compliment the national level advocacy on issues such as land rights, government agricultural schemes as well as SACCOs and functional adult literacy programs.
- WEE Training manual and guidelines were framed to guide such WEE capacity building.
- A high-level national dialogue was organized in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) and UN-Women to dialogue towards removing the challenges in the practice of organizing women only/led Cooperatives. In the dialogue women SACCO leaders, State Minister of MOWSA, Deputy chairperson of the women caucus, deputy chairpersons/representatives from regional bureaus of women and social affairs as well as cooperatives actively participated in the dialogue. After presentation of the current legal framework and practice in organizing and strengthening of SACCOs, representatives from theregions presented their achievements, challenges, opportunities, and threats on the matter. Panel discussion was also done to learn from women SACCO leaders on the practical challenges they are facing.
- Major issues in practice in cooperative offices at Woreda level that prohibit women only SACCOs from being organized and strengthened? the limit on the number of SACCOs organized in one locality; the minimum number of women in a SACCO set at 50 and that does not consider be determined; lack of coordination; federal laws not being cascaded to regional, zonal and Woreda level administrations; regional proclamations not being amended following the amendments at federal level; unavailability of systems, spaces for manufacturing and selling of products to encourage women were discussed and in conclusion resolutions were reached and a task force assigned comprising individuals from the MOWSA, Cooperatives commission, AAE and UN Women who prepared and shared a report to the assigned delegates and is following on the progress and engagements have continued in pushing this agenda forward.
- On the launching of the National WEE forum, Ensira Women Pottery Cooperative was one of the women cooperatives in Addis Ababa, who presented their challenges in their working conditions. AAE management paid a visit and handed over 40 tables and chairs; wheels; a furnace; mixer among other things in contribution to decent working place.



Women only SACCO leaders discussing with high-ranking government representatives on the essence of reviewing the proclamation that prohibits formation of women-only saving and credit cooperatives.

AAE has also been implementing a project Combatting Child Labor, Exploitation and Abuse and human trafficking in partnership with 4 local partners. Key achievements under these projects are:

- Awareness creation and consultation workshops on legal and policy frameworks organized (407: 168F and 234 M)
- Advocacy by partner organizations targeting: Law enforcement organs, comm. Structures, Women and Social Affairs, Work and Training Bureau etc. 217 persons: (61F, 156M)
- 3 Researches conducted: 1. The Gaps in the Existing National Legal Instruments in Combatting Child labor, Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Ethiopia (CEHRO); 2. Business and Human Rights in Ethiopia with Particular Focus on Modern Slavery finalized and validated, and advocacy started; 3. Research on the attributes of agricultural value & supply chain, service and Largescale Investments in Perpetuating Modern Slavery (Exploitation, Child Labor, Abuse and Human Trafficking/CECLAHT) in Ethiopia is validated and to be published in this quarter.
- Advocacy platforms on business malpractices, legal and policy frameworks etc. for govt. sector offices, community Structures, CSOs etc. (237 persons:108F, 129M)
- Awareness creation on malpractices of businesses, Decent work, Seeking Justice etc., (144 persons: 78F and 66M)
- Strengthening community structures to combat child labour, exploitation, and human trafficking: 6 discussion groups and 1 coalition in Amhara and SNNPR respectively (a continuous engagement)
- Awareness creation for community Structures, vulnerable groups and CSOs, travel agencies done (664 ppt. (271F, 393 M))
- Purchase of mattresses and dignity kits (in SNNPRS) was also provided to 600 Girls.
- Entrepreneurship training was provided to 750 targeted women by EDA and UEWCA, and additional targets selected by UEWCA
- Purchase of mattresses and dignity kits (SNNPRS) for 600 target right holders
- Provision of alternative livelihood support for 600 women target received alternative livelihood support.



Fikir, in her service business

Change Story

Fikir is a young woman who lives in Kutaber woreda of South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region. As she was unemployed with no means of income and no exposure to economic interactions in her community to generate income for her family. Thus, she was planning to migrate to one of the Arab countries facing any upcoming risks because she had no alternative means of livelihood.

Thus, as one of the vulnerable groups to human trafficking, she was targeted for alternative livelihood interventions made by one of the sub-partners of AAE, IFSO (Integrated Family Service Organization) which partnered with UEWCA to implement a project on Combating Child Labor, Exploitation, Abuse, and Human Trafficking.

After receiving business skill training and start-up capital of 10,000 ETB, she started a small business, selling tea and coffee and she also built solidarity with other young women targeted by the project. So, currently, she has developed confidence that enabled her to run her own business, cover her living costs, support her mother, and started saving individually and in groups with other women targeted by the same

intervention. In group saving, the women's group led by Fikir has saved ETB 17,000 in six months and facilitated loan service for the group members who want to expand their business. It is also very encouraging that the group has a dream to engage in a larger-scale business as their saving and capital increase. Besides, the intervention created an opportunity for Fikir and young vulnerable women like her to build solidarity and help one another through the separate saving of 20 ETB which is meant for social security purposes at their village level.

The labor and Skills Office of the South Wollo Zone is also trying its best to facilitate a better working place for Fikir and other targets to rescue them from human traffickers and enable them to prosper through local efforts.

Change Story

Betlehem is a married woman and a mother of one child living in the Southern Region, Sechduna Kebele. Due to the meagre income she would make, she could not respond to the needs of her family. Hence, like other residents of her kebele, she had a plan of getting trafficked abroad in search of a better job. However, after being targeted by the project for alternative livelihood intervention, life skill training, and provision of start-up capital, she started the business of selling injera to different restaurants and started saving personally and in groups. Currently, she has a capital of 12,000 ETB and has dropped her plan for illegal migration.



Number of people engaged with AAE

Gender	Children (0 – 14)	Youth (15 – 30)	Adults (31+)	Total
Male	0	6	31	37
Female	0	108	1948	542
Total	0	114	465	579

Partners we worked with for this mission objective

Partner/Coalition type	Number of partner/coalitions AAE worked with
Alliance	
Networks	
CBOs	4
NGOs	35
Movements	
Cooperatives	6 including union
Other	2
Total	

5.2 Priority 2:

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

AAE with the objective of alleviating poverty and gender injustice, has adopted Good Governance and Young People's engagement as one of its program priorities. The focus areas are- Ensure Good Governance for delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) and - Ensure the leadership and civic participation of young people in good governance, peace building, social change and democratic processes.

In this year, mainly through the Strategic Partnership Agreement Project II (SPA II) vast areas and diversified interventions have taken place with the main focus on young women and their orga-

nizations and networks. Key areas that resulted in young peoples' engagement mainly, young women, are decision making, climate change adaptation and humanitarian response process and actions. It has been implemented in collaboration with local partners, youth groups/associations, and government stakeholders in four target areas; Ameya and Elfeta districts of Oromia region, Guna district of Amhara region, Semen Bench district of Southwest region and Addis Ababa city administration. The main objective of the SPA II project is to enable young people, especially women and marginalized people, enjoy fundamental rights through improved access to well-resourced programs and public services within water, education, and health (SRHR), and enjoy improved, sustainable livelihoods, resilience and protection including in climate disasters, fragile situations, and protracted crisis contexts.



Representatives of Ministries, House of Federation, Local Implementing partners, and women community structures took part in SPA II launching Workshop.

Key achievements revolved around Capacity building, establishment of structures; safe space establishment for the young; and advocacy and peace building. With the capacity building intervention, we were able to reach 1,408 young people (58% female) with the topics of leadership and management, Gender Responsive Public Service, digital literacy skills, peace building and conflict management, climate resilient sustainable agriculture and agroecology. In addition, spaces have been created for youth particularly for young women through the events of youth day, workshops, panel discussions and other spaces including the digital spaces. Besides, online campaigns advocating on the issues of peace, climate justice & environment protection, and violence prevention were organized through social media platforms with the participation of more than 31,362 young people. The participation of youth at national issues like policy processes have made to improve their raising of voices. Social accountability committees at the district/woreda/ level have supported youth groups to have space and able to influence systems. At the local level, eleven youth institutions were established and starting to function with institutional set up including in agroecology centres. During the establishment process, the exercising of democratic election for leadership and executive committee selection was taken as good lesson to be replicable and practiced in their operations.



Young people doing team- work exercise during leadership training in Bishoftu town.

In the year 2022, a total of 4569 right holders (2570 female and 1999 male) have directly benefited from the activities implemented under Priority two and expended 431,340 euro.

As a result of this program priority two interventions,

- Young women became key actors for humanitarian response through taking leadership and participating in targeting, provision and monitoring the process of multi-purpose cash support, dignity kit provision and responses for survivors of violence in collaboration with the community members and government respective offices.
- Duty bearers allocated lands for agroecology practices and youth multipurpose functions with the lobbying and influencing efforts of young people which helps youth to engage with agroecology center works like seedling, environment protection

- Duty bearers decided to take inclusive actions for socially outcasted community whenever they come to seek public services to ensure social cohesion in protecting the rights of marginalized people.

Partners we worked with for this mission objective

Partner /Coalition type	Number of partner/- coalitions we worked with
Alliance	
Networks	
CBOs	4 women watch groups and five youth groups
NGOs	4 youth led/focused organizations
Movements	
Cooperatives	
Other	

Number of people engaged with AAE

Gender	Children (0 –	Youth (15–30)	Adults (31+)	Total
Male		1771	228	1999
Female		2447	123	2570
Total		4218	351	4569



Youth group member during voting and counting votes Infront of observers.

Change Story

Youth groups exercised democratic election during leaders' selection.

This change story tells about how young people practiced democratic election during the process of organizing themselves with institutional set up to have collective actions specifically the improvement of young women leadership role. Commonly, young people have organized with clubs or associations with the initiation of some individuals or external bodies in which the initiators have become leaders and make others to be members by staying in the leadership for long period. Previously, it was done through the nomination from the government offices or those youth who have more contact with them by excluding the majority participation for selecting the leaders. Such condition had become source of conflict among young people and create gaps during operation and team work. It eroded the sense of ownership for the youth groups among them and could lead the sustaining functionality of actions under question. However, the practice of democratic election helps them to recognize the importance of members vote and performance for re-election as per the procedure.

In 2022, ActionAid Ethiopia had supported the young people to organize in the form of youth groups/hubs in order to have collection actions. Accordingly, five youth from the district attended ToT training on leadership and management in October 2022 which helps them to institutionalize the youth groups. After the training on leadership and management, cascading was made for other members of youth in the group at local level in order to increase understanding about the roles and functions of the youth groups/hubs. In addition, the SPA II team in the district has supported continuously with mentoring and coaching to have organizational capacities by fulfilling the necessary requirements. By-law development and legalization process were assisted to finalize the formation process and ensuring their functionality.

During the formation process, the initiation for democratic election of leaders among youth facilitated and supported in collaboration with the government offices. In doing so, the project team organized and facilitated the democratic election of leaders of the youth empowerment group of the district and the basic youth groups of four Kebeles (lower tier of government structure). As a result, the establishment of youth groups was accompanied with the exercise of democratic election in Gunna district of Ethiopia through fair, transparent, and inclusive participation of young people according to their by-laws. In the process, members of the youth groups participated by giving votes after having presentation from potentials candidates about their objectives and vision. Election officials and observers from district government offices and stakeholders assigned and attended the process to ensure its democratic actions. In this process, young people have developed the culture of democratic process and abiding with rule of law. On top of that young women had got the opportunity of empowerment in which three of five selected leaders become young women. At the end of the process the interim leaders of youth empowerment and basic youth groups hand over the leadership for the new selected with absolute joy.



Youth group member during voting and counting votes Infront of observers.

5.3 Priority 3:

Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice Program.

In this process, young people have developed the culture of democratic process and abiding with rule of law. On top of that young women had got the opportunity of empowerment in which three of five selected leaders become young women. At the end of the process the interim leaders of youth empowerment and basic youth groups hand over the leadership for the new selected with absolute joy. AAE has been working with Women and communities to have transformed institutions and structures that strengthen communities' ability to cope with crises and shocks, 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: Women and communities ensured their food sovereignty and resilience to climate change by adopting agroecology practices and principles and influencing policies and/or programs, Women and communities able to influence policies and plans that help reduce climate change impacts and ensure their needs and rights and 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. During the reporting period, a total of 14,062 (11,690 F and 2372 M) have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this program priority in Guna and Ameya LRPs (districts). The total budget utilized was 26,776,859.96 ETB.

Focus Area 1

Agroecology and Food sovereignty

Key Achievements -

Promotion of agroecology through increasing awareness on agroecological practices like soil fertility management, avoidance use of chemicals on farming activities, diversification of farming activities, cropping techniques and practices were provided through training, experience sharing visits, creating access to inputs, and strengthening farmers cooperatives and so on. The following are some of the key achievements of the focus area during the reporting



In the TOT workshop, Pot-in-pot local eco-friendly and affordable technology was introduced as one of the means of preserving vegetables and fruits at household level.

period. TOT level Agroecology based - Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) training was provided for 32 technical staff from all our LRPs and partners office. The training equipped participants with knowledge sharing and cross fertilization of best practices on agroecology, CRSA and Food Sovereignty, climate justice, food system transformation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building soil fertility management, preparation, and usage of natural fertilizers areas.

- TOT level Post harvest Management techniques training was conducted for 35 technical staffs from Guna and Ameya woreda partner offices and our LRPs. The training was focused on fruits and vegetables post-harvest loss minimizing and handling (harvesting, transporting, processing, storage/and or preserving by local materials and using) technique.



Practical Agro-ecology training

- The LRPs cascaded both the CRSA and post-harvest management Trainings on their respective woredas to the responsible DAs, Community facilitators and community members specially to our target's women small holders' farmers. In addition, to reduce the post-harvest loss, technologies (Airtight bag) were introduced to target kebeles through granting to each kebele farmers cooperatives in Guna and in Ameya local field crops like local maize, black barely, read teff and beans which is found on farmers hand were identified to kept in farmers land for multiplication purpose.
- Fruit and vegetable production and management skills training was also provided to 218 (202F) women farmers who have land and water access to practice it. Six variety vegetable seeds, fruit seedling mainly Apple, Avocado, Mango, and Papaya (3160 seedling) were distributed to selected women farmers in 3 rural sponsorship kebeles of Guna and Ameya. In addition, 390 (290 sheep rearing and 100 poultry) women farmers have also been supported with to engage on diversified livelihood. Improved breed sheep and chicken were provided with livestock management training and forage seed, forage seedling and factory prepared forage.
- Soil fertility management is one of the concerns of the Guna community since it is in highland areas the soil acidity is very high. In addition to awareness raising sessions, inputs like limestone, white lupinin seed and Verme compost are also provided to women farmers. Agricultural farming and fruit management tools were distributed to all targets of fruit and vegetable farmers. Improve soil fertility through provision of limestone, white lupine seeds and Vermi compost for 122(208F) women and small holder farmers.
- Women's economic empowerment interventions continued with 231 women living in poverty accessing loan of birr 4,000 and Basic Business Skill (BBS) training in Guna through 4 SACCOs. As a result, 1957(1875 F) community members benefited from the SACCOs financial services while in Ameya 6 SAACOs organized with total members of 1184 PLWP and out of them 743 women are accessing loan ranging between 3000 – 4000 birr per person.
- In Ameya, CRSA demonstration plots were established to practice agroecology like compost preparation, vegetables production, post-harvest management and local seed production were demonstrated. The demonstration lasts for 6 months and a total of 589 (65 male) community members took continuous on farm/ practical training. As a result, the experience expanded to 21 farmers within farming year and women small holder farmers who inspired by the program were able to produce and harvest more product from small plot and gain better income (6,000. - 11,500.00 birr from 200m2.) compared with the past income earned (2000 – 3000 birr) from the same plot of land.
- With the support of AAE, Ameya agricultural office established nursery site to produce improved avocado seedling and on the reporting year they were able to produce 22,000 seedlings and distributed to farmers on cluster bases.

Focus Area 2:

Climate Justice

Key Achievements

- Capacity building actions as relates to Climate Justice have been prioritized in the year where AAE staff and a partner staff have attended training organized by Action Aid Global office. Following this, the training was cascaded to other staff.
- Ameya LRP in collaboration with sectoral office government has organized 3 days training on climate change, adaptation, and mitigation where 20 young women and girls attended the training. Following the training youth led event was organized at district and kebele level and then young movement groups on climate justice is organized which had an opportunity to be better equipped in advocacy and social mobilization to create mass community awareness on climate justice. More than 1500 people got awareness and out of them 500 people purchased energy saving stoves from the women groups established to produce this in earlier year.

Focus Area 3:

Women, Girls including young people's rights to Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources

Natural Resource Management (NRM) refers to the sustainable utilization of major natural resources, such as land, water, air, minerals, forests, fisheries, and wild flora and fauna. Together, these resources provide ecosystem services that provide better quality to human life. ActionAid Guna and Ameya LRPs have supported the community on increasing awareness and creating space for women participation on decision making process on NRM and created access to agricultural tools and local tree seedlings.

- AAE Ameya LRP in collaboration with schools organized 4 NRM clubs and trained 140 (73 female) students on basic principles of water shade management and NRM with practical demonstration of nursery management. Environmental protection clubs in 7 primary schools have also been trained on the NRM and supported with agricultural tools and local tree seedlings.
- AAE supported 360kg indigenous Grevilia seed to schools and one government nursery site in Ameya and saw in 2 nursery sites. In Guna NRM trainings were provided to 41 (11F) watershed committee members where the women representation and participation has also been ensured.
- The NRM government campaign served as an opportunity to enhance women participation on planning and decision-making process. Guna, Kimir dingay youth trained on NRM, secured land from municipality, and engaged in green area development with seedling support from AAE.
- As an economic benefit and use of soil fertility management, 37,500 hop seedlings were distributed to women who live in poverty and planted in their farmland and in model watersheds.
- The Borehole development initiative in Guna, Atekana was started last year through members training, provision of agricultural tools and seedling support.





Change Story

Poverty Defeated

Kumale Likissa, 32, is a widow and a mother of 4 (3 female), resident of Ameya, who was living in chronic poverty shouldering all the life ups and downs by herself. She has no oxen for ploughing her land and unable to cover the cost of agricultural inputs, so she was forced to give her land for another farmer on cost sharing base. Three years ago, she heard about ActionAid's intervention on women living in poverty in the area and started to attend the Reflection Action Circle (RAC) discussions with the community and later joined women SACCO.

"Being the member of RAC group organized in agro-ecology I brought remarkable change in my family's life. In the group, we discuss every issue that affects women's lives and the mechanisms to solve those problems. Through time, I realized that my poverty is in my attitude/mind set and the ways in managing resource. Hence, my behavior in my home, time management, the ways I handle resources, my communication with others improved and resulted in change in my family's life. I break the vicious circle of poverty in my family.

"Through time I have got 3000-birr loan from the saving and credit cooperative and started sheep fattening. I got birr 2000 profit from the first fattening season and in same season continued with vegetables productions on my backyard garden using small scale irrigation and earned 3500 birr and I

earned a total of birr 5500. By then I have got the capacity to reclaim my land. Again, I took the second-round loan 4000 birr from the cooperative and invested on my returned 1ha of land. produced crops and vegetables and my history started to change here. Within one year I produced twice and was able to collect teff, maize, tomato, cabbages & beat root from 1 ha of land.

Currently the living condition of the family got improved, her children started to go to school, and she started to accumulate assets like two heads of cattle, 1 sheep for the family and planning to buy additional oxen for ploughing and plan to invest on her land with full capacity.

Finally, "ActionAid program enabled me to break through and win the vicious circle of poverty that I inherited from my parents," she added.





Change Story

“The way of living my life and my livelihood improved “

In Guna, due to cultural norms and patriarchal thinking, women and girls have suffered a lot on shouldering all household chores. Collecting firewood and water is the most tedious work of rural women in their daily life. The health problem due to the smokes from the cookstoves is also another challenge on the lives of women and girls. Serito Lefirie

The cooperative has 16 women members who have strong passion to change their situation and support their community.

Alemnat Tigabe , (27) a mother of two, is one of the member and chairwomen of the cooperative. She expresses her feeling as: “I used to live without engaging in any income generating activity. My day was spent only with house chores, and I didn’t have any idea on how to minimize my work burden, save time and improve my livelihood. My friends and I have established our energy saving stove producers cooperative with the support of ActionAid. ActionAid provided us awareness creation training on how to improve our livelihood and support our community women through creating access to energy saving cookstoves. I was one of the first user of our product and a model for our village women.

The stove saved my time, cost, and improved my health through its multifaced benefits. *I used to buy firewood for about birr 600 and now it is only birr 200 for a month.* In addition to our members, we have

distributed energy saving stove producers cooperative established with the objective of creating livelihood alternative for the members and to create access to energy saving stove to women and the community that has direct impact on health economy and the environment. The cooperative has 16 women members who have strong passion to change their situation and support their community.

300 cookstoves for women and we are under production of 120 stoves to address for more women. I and my friends are expected birr 5000 dividend from our cooperative at the end of this year and proud of being a solution maker for women’s work burden.”

In addition to her engagement on the cooperative, Alemnat started her homebased business after getting entrepreneurship training provided by ActionAid. She went to village saving and credit cooperative and accessed loan with her saving. She expresses this as: “when my eyes have opened, I started poultry farming and livestock fattening activities by borrowing from my SACCo. Now I have ability to build my corrugated iron house with my husband. Currently I have birr 30,000 capital for my home-based business and regularly save for my future. Thanks to ActionAid, I and women in my village have improved our way of living and livelihood.”



Members of Serto Lrfrie Energy Saving Stove Producers Cooperative, which Alemnat is one.

Number of people engaged with AAE

Gender	Children (0 – 14)	Youth (15–30)	Adults (31+)	Total
Male	320	52	2000	2372
Female	2933	325	8432	11690
Total	3253	377	10487	14062

Partners we worked with for this mission objective:

Partner/Coalition type	Number of partner/coalitions we worked	Remarks
Alliance	15 school clubs in Guna and 5 school clubs in Ameya.	
Networks	15 primary schools in Guna and 5 primary schools in Ameya.	
CBOs	Women Watch forum (1 in each LRPs) 4 Water management committee	
NGOs	1 in Guna 1 in Ameya	
Movements	4 Youth groups 10 SACCOs (4 in Guna and 6 in Ameya)	
Cooperatives	3 Multipurpose cooperatives in Guna 1 Seed Multiplication Cooperative - 1 Cooperatives Union	
agreement with justice institutions	7 offices in Guna and 7 offices in Ameya.	Social accountability committee SAC

5.4

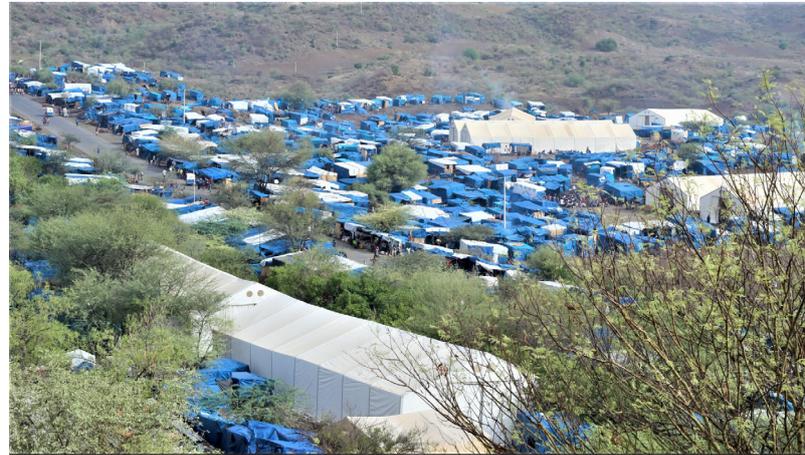
Priority 4.

Driving Transformative Women-led Community-based Emergency Preparedness, Response, Recovery and the right to Protection

Ethiopia is affected by multiple human and natural induced disasters such as Conflict, Drought, flooding and epidemics which affects millions of people across the country. As a result of the multiple hazards mainly the northern Ethiopia conflict and the drought in the Southern and southeastern parts of the country (Oromia, Somalia and SNNPRS) more than 20 million people need Humanitarian assistance.

ActionAid Ethiopia is one of the humanitarian actors in the country and responding to the humanitarian crisis in the northern Ethiopia Tigray, Amhara and Afar and the drought-affected communities in Oromia region Guji and Borana zone quickly by mobilizing resource from donors and internal sources, such as Danida Top up, PPL IHART/DPRF, Start Fund, Medicaor, ECHO and internal sources.

The response was done after making rapid assessment in different parts of Amhara region and IDP sites in Amhara, (Kobo, Jarra, Dessie, Debrebirhan, Debretabor, Guna and SeKota), Afar and Tigray. Therefore, provision of multipurpose cash and protection was identified as the primary needs. Cash was identified as the best option for the response as it gives them different options to purchase



Far sight view of Jara IDP centre temporarily sheltering persons displaced due to the Northern Ethiopia internal conflict.

essential livelihood assets, to a range of food commodities, and to non-food needs such as kitchen utensils, hygiene items, and clothes as per their priority needs.

Similarly, ActionAid Ethiopia was the first responder to the drought crisis in Guji zone mainly in Saba-Boru woreda and Borana zone Wachile and Dubuluk through food, multipurpose cash, and Protection and additional five woredas in Borena through nutrition, health and Wash,

The lifesaving humanitarian responses were led by our Humanitarian signatures, Women and young people leadership, localization of aid, accountability and transparency including protection. Therefore, our long-term partners (PADet, Rift-valley, AFD, RohiWedu and women and young people targeting committee) with active participation of the affected communities which enables to quickly reached the affected communities and provided the support timely.

In 2022, through the women led, community base lifesaving and protection emergency intervention, a total of 87,991.00 (55,859.00 Female) have been reached and benefited from the activities implemented under this objective and expended ETB 70,379,523.01.



Life-saving cash distribution with the presence of representatives from the affected people in Debrebirhan IDP centre.

Key Achievements

- In 2022, through the women-led, community base lifesaving and protection emergency intervention, a total of the lives of 90,033(62,412) people affected by conflict and drought is saved and protected through provision of food, Multipurpose cash, protection health and nutrition, Wash/N-FI/. The response was guided by CHS and our humanitarian signature.
- The response process has contributed to create effective women and young leadership in targeting and resource administration.
- Women and young people leadership in the emergencies gives opportunity to challenge existing power structures and imbalances within community. More than 235 (70% Women and young people) who trained on core principles, humanitarian signature Core Humanitarian standards in all the affected areas have led the response with close technical support from AAE and its local partners.
- Women households were able to present their complaints without fear and reservation to the women targeting committees.



Emergency cash Distribution at Jara IDP Centre



ActionAid Ethiopia Humanitarian Response team assessing disfunctionality of Water and Hygiene facilities in drought-hit Borana zone of Oromia region

S/N	Type of support	No of HH	Male	Total Targets Female	Total	Total ETB	Total GBP/EUR O	Donor	Response area (Region)	Duration
1	Multipurpose cash support to the IDP in JARA IDP site in Amhara region	1484	1658	2741	4,399	3,519,200	56,761	Medicare / IHART	Amhara	April - Oct. 2022
2	Dignity kits support for 505 productive age girls and women			505	505	353,500	5,701			
3	Multipurpose cash support to the conflict affected communities in Tigray Raya LRP	600	1050	1650	2,700	4,000,000	61,500	LRP of AAE/Regular budget of 2022	Tigray	August to December 2022
4	School Feeding Emergency Response in Seba-Boru District		436	297	733	1,262,826.24	20000 £	Saba-Boru Regular budget	Oromia	June March to 2022,
5	Food and protection support for the drought affected communities in Saba-Boru LRP Oromia	1799	2491	2966	5,457	6,083,507	98,121	PPL, Regular fund and DANIDA Top up	Oromia	May to December 2022
6	Water trucking to drought affected communities in Saba-Boru	3000	5155	9345	14500	1,650,000	25000 £	IHART/DP RF	Oromia	March to June 2022
7	Food, Multipurpose cash support to the drought affected communities in Borana Zone five woredas	3680	9639	9261	18900	35000	665000	Danida top up and IHART.	Oromia	August (2022) to June 2023
8	Multipurpose cash support to the IDPs in Debrebrhan	1750	3325	5425	8750	12,148,177	213,125,000 £	START	Amhara	Dec. 2022 - Oct. (45 days)
9	Protection supports to the IDPs in Debrebrhan			2473	2473	3,440,400		Fund		
10	Provisions of Emergency lifesaving cash support to conflict affected communities in Sekota		100	1950	2050	3,087,763		Dainida Top up	Amhara	Oct.to Dec. 2022
11	Multipurpose cash support to IDPs in Guna				3112			Regular	Amhara	
12	Multipurpose cash support to IDPs in Ilfeta	350	418	682	1100	3,410,000		Regular	Oromia	Sept. - Dec. 2022
13	Protection Monitoring and Service to conflict affected Northern Region			4000	4000	2,356,000		PPL	Amhara & Afar	1, January December 2022 -
14	Promote access to basic services for internally Displaced and other Conflict-Affected Population in Amhara, Afar and Tigray.					5,302,313.63		ECHO	Amhara	
15	Emergency WASH, Nutrition and Health Response with Protection mainstreaming to Drought Affected Communities in five Woredas of Borena Zone	2698	5490	7500	12,990	26,310,358	526,191€ (26,191 AAE)	ERM IRC	Oromia	Five Months (November 01/2022 to March 31/2023)



Atsedu, Chairperson of Coordinating Committee of China Camp, IDP Site in Debrebirhan Town

Change Story

“Because you (ActionAid) are women’s organization, you found out what works best for women.”

I am the Chairperson of Coordinating Committee of this IDP site. ActionAid and PADet have given us training on the requirements of targeting right holders for the multi-purpose cash support. According to the training we took, we primarily selected pregnant, lactating mothers, orphans, women-headed families, and elderlies for the cash support. There was acute food shortage in this compound and the cash support arrived here at very critical time.

I am 45 now and head a family of eleven members. I came here (‘China Camp’) last January 2022 after losing all my assets in my farm business- 27 cattle, 17 sheep, farmyard, and a big compound house due to internal conflict. My husband has been bed-ridden for the last seven years, and all my six children are here in this site living on aid. We thank God for you arrived here at very critical time and the people here are really delighted by this; earlier four persons in this compound have died of hunger when a certain charity organization discontinued its support since last two months.

Through ActionAid and PADet, each of us get 1,200Birr (20GBP) and it is distributed for a maximum of 4 persons per household/family which comes 80GBP. We favour the cash support to support in kind because the cash will buy everything we need. Getting only food items will not suffice because you can’t even-buy salt, matches, firewood, etc to cook food. There are also staple foods like berbere/ red pepper which charities do not provide us and it is through the cash support that we can buy it. Because you (ActionAid) are women’s organization, you found out what works best for women and came to us with cash support. I wish the government could take me back home even if I should start from scratch, but I am not sure whether that could happen. We have missed three harvest seasons and now we are to miss the fourth. This is worrying us too much. Finally, I would like to thank ActionAid and PADet for their kindness and call up on other charities to come and support us as the support we get and the demand do not match”.

Change Story

“The drought took all our livestock and forced us to live on selling firewood”.

My name is Achure, I live in Bede district of Borana zone in Ethiopia. My age is 37 and my husband is 52. We have nine children. As pastoralists, we used to have herds of camel and cattle but now we are left with only two oxen and two goats. Now we are living on aid from the government and charities.

It's been three years since we were hit by the drought. My husband went to adjacent areas in Kenya in search of water for our livestock, but he faced the same problem/drought as here and he lost all the eighty cattle (worth over 75,000USD) he took to Kenya. We had two cows and few goats remaining here, but again we lost them and are left with few goats.

Because of all these losses, my husband who is living afar and the family here are suffering in all terms. I can hardly feed my children. As we were unable to send pocket money for one of our daughters in a college in another regional state (Gambela University), our effort to transfer her to a nearby university here failed and she was forced to withdraw from the university to come to us. Our son who we used to pay 10USD/month for his private college in Moyale town has also discontinued his class because of our financial problem. Now I am leading my life by selling firewood by the side of the main asphalt-road. I pay 0.8USD to pay for transport to reach there and sell the firewood for 1.60USD. With the 0.8USD 'profit' I get, I buy 2kg of flour to feed my family. I don't take any food on the day I go to sell the firewood; I spend the night without food and come back home on the next day with the 0.8 USD 'profit' I make.

This was not the way we lived three years ago. Before then, we never sold firewood to make our living. As we used to have many livestock, we sold milk to fulfil what we needed for our life. For bigger spendings, we used to sell one of our cattle. It is the drought we faced that took all our livestock and forced us to live on selling firewood. As most of us in the kebele /district are in food insecurity, the local government makes screening to distribute the little food aid (mostly grain and edible oil) to give priority to those most affected among us. However, when those who get the food aid come to our villages, they share what they bring to those of us who do not get the aid based on the screening. Thus, those who get the food support in the selection can't either feed themselves for the month they are given the food.

We are grateful to ActionAid for it is going to construct latrines for our children's schools in our district that have no latrines and rehabilitate the water supply structures for our cattle that have ceased operation due to mechanical problems. The main reason why we faced total loss of our livestock is lack of water in addition to the dry fields.

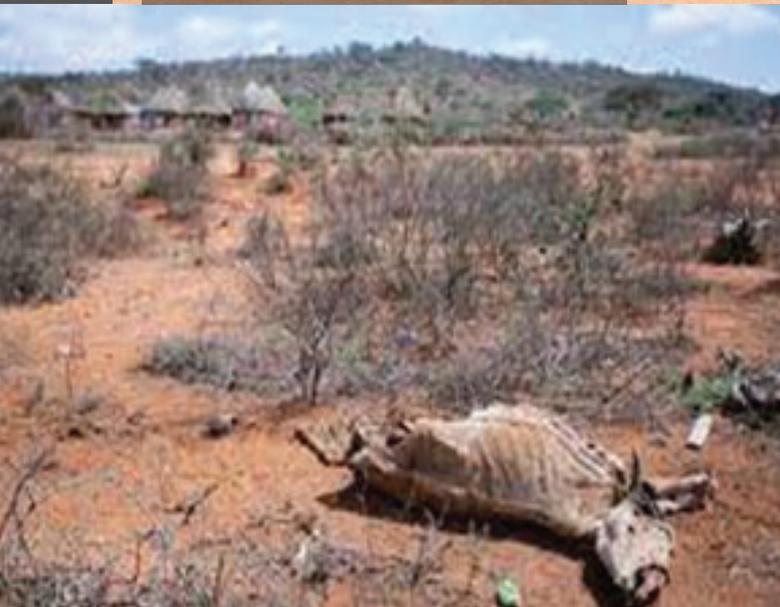


Most perished for the long distances they went in search water. According to the culture of Borana, we don't consume the whole water only for our livestock, but we also leave some share for wild animals. So, the water scheme will be useful for both our livestock and wildlife. Not only that, the water supply in our district will not only solve our problem but also the problem of neighbouring districts as they will bring their livestock here for water.

Elema is 35 of age and has got six children. She lives in Watchile /Dilo woreda, Omore Kebele/village in Borana zone. She has lost 75 cattle's out of 80 cattle's she used to have. She travels 18 kilometre every other day to fetch water for her family and cattle's. She states, they faced a wide range of problems including the long-distance travel in search of water has caused pregnant women give birth on the road causing deaths. Because the water supply infrastructure in her village is not functional due to lack of spare parts submersible pump failure. Despite repeated reporting about the maintenance problem of the water supply system in their village to government authorities, Elema and her villagers could not get any solution so far. Now that ActionAid in collaboration with International Rescue Committee and a local implementing partner called Action for . Development are going to restore the operation of water supply system, she hopes their livelihood would improve.



Achure with her children by the side of her house. (Picture: ActionAid)





5.5

Construction Interventions and Achievements

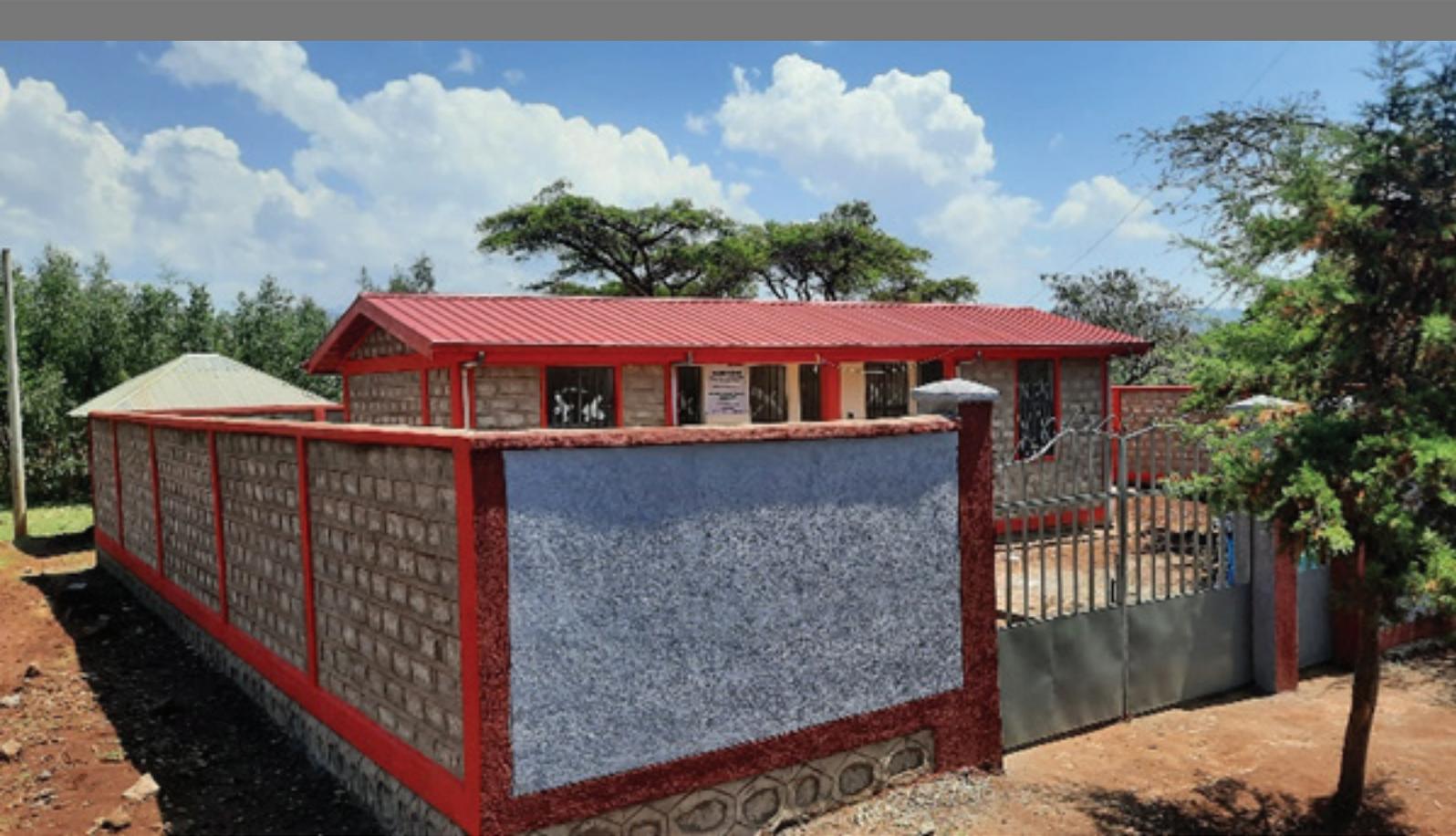


AAE along its wide interventions towards Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication, designs and implements construction projects. The constructions are mainly targeted to improve Women’s and Girls’ access to basic services like water and education. In the year 2022, the total construction project investment accounts to 19% of the annual program expense.

Semen Bench LRP Wala Primary School Construction Handover Ceremony

Summary of Construction projects in FY 2022

No	Description	Total Cost (ETB)	Project Location
1	Construction of Classrooms block, Girls’ safety Room, Library block and Female-male separated Toilets	6,246,916.56	Southwest Ethiopia, Bench Sheko Zone, Semien Bench Woreda, Wala Kebele
2	Drilling and Construction of Hand Dug Well	215,803.25	Southwest Ethiopia, Bench Sheko Zone, Semien Bench Woreda, Wala Kebele
3	Construction of Premise Fence for Beka Protection Center	1,856,969.98	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gindo town
4	Construction of Preschool and Toilet Blocks	2,853,807.00	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gulti Bola Kebele
5	Construction of SACCO Office (comprised of Office Block, Shower and Toilet block and Premise Fence)	4,174,912.62	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Tumi Bino Sombo Kebele
6	Construction of Classrooms block	4,438,704.45	Amhara Region, South Gonder Zone, Guna Begemdir Woreda, Wukiro Kebele
7	Construction of Women and Girls’ Safe Space (comprised of Safe space block, Shower and toilet block, Water supply and Premise Fence)	3,912,778.47	Somali Region, Liben Zone, Bokolmayo Woreda
8	Renovation of Child friendly Court Room including Audio System	802,192.05	Addis Ababa City, Federal First Instance Court, Kirkos District Bench
Total		24,502,084.38	



A SACCO Office constructed by ActionAid Ethiopia in Ameya

Partner/Coalition type	Number of partner/coalitions we worked with
Alliance	5
Networks	2
CBOs	4 WWG
NGOs	6 NGOs
Movements	
Cooperatives	2
Other	

6 Deepening the impact of our work

- Increased households' income level through sustainable use of natural and climate resilience Agroecology methods.
- Ensured good governance and social inclusion mainstreaming.
- Increased local employment opportunities and creating equitable access for resources to marginalized group.
- Reduced Climate Change impacts on livelihoods vulnerability.
- Increased households' food security through improved and productive vegetables
- Targeting successfully identifies Women living in poverty and able to organize them in interest group and help them produce vegetables and different seedlings
- Supported women living in poverty to organize in economic group like saving and credit cooperatives.
- Strong partnership has been created with concerned government sectors at all levels and with community groups.
- To ensure accountability and transparency LRP have displayed activity plan and accomplishment at the public site in government compound and LRP compound in addition to regular report submission.
- The program engagement and communication were not left to AAE staffs, rather the CBOs like WWGs effectively created close communication and partnership with traditional institutions and government sectors to strengthen the fight against GBV.
- The partnership was strengthened with traditional community leaders' Abagedas', the traditional insurance institution, Iddir and the local government and WWGs. As a result, the fight against women right deprivation has brought fast change and every members of community started to raise GBV and right violation as illegal act instead of rationalizing the act in the name of cultural practice.
- The other learning from the LRP program intervention was the power of collective action has been revealed. The GBV and women right violation in the district has come to be changed over the time as women living in this situation organized in women watch group, in schoolgirls' club and women saving and credit cooperatives to

challenge the situation. As this solidarity is influencing the duty bearers, the situation is improving over the years. Law enforcing bodies has started implementing the law instead of ignoring the criminal act against women and girls.

Now women are exercising their right to engage in economic activity and decision making on family resources. They are also able to refuse the tradition that deprive women's right to public participation. Unlike the preintervention situation where there was problem to get a single women in public gathering, now a days women are being active participant and part of decision makers.

7 Accountability



AAE ensured Accountability as a crosscutting issue in all projects including donor funded and sponsorship projects analyzing data disaggregating per HRBP by Gender, age, where possible disability and other contextually relevant characteristics to assess how well we are serving to our diverse right holders. Also, analyzing, and interpreting data on rightsholders numbers, outcomes, and satisfaction of right holders to generate meaningful information that supports programmatic decision making. Last but not least, establishing clear accountability and procedures for data

collection, quality checks, standard data structures and secure storage in humanitarian and development projects. A theory of change and log-frame are developed and updated using right holders and community feedbacks through PPRP approach using rightsholders feedbacks, data, evidence, and learning.

Principle I: Participation and Inclusion

collection, quality checks, standard data structures and secure storage in humanitarian and development projects. A theory of change and log-frame are developed and updated using right holders and community feedbacks through PPRP approach using rightsholders feedbacks, data, evidence, and learning. The CBOs participation in every decision making has been witnessed to better serve the community. The women led CBO leaders have been influential in addressing the message to their fellow women during saving and credit times, marketing, and other socialization events. The CBO members recommended addressing their leadership who are exposed due to their responsibility. As a result, ActionAid has supported all CBOs with preventive material and detailed education about the pandemic with special attention to their leaders.

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

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

Principle II: Evaluation and learning

- As per HRBA principle of putting people living in poverty first, advocacy campaign was led by targeted women and youth; additionally, from planning to implementation, staff, and partner capacity building; agreements with stakeholders are all guided by HRBA principles.
- National and regional key actors adopt and invest in equitable, feminist just processes, based on their fair share of climate action, transforming economic systems, especially in food systems that support smallholder food producers to become climate resilient.



AAE Senior Management members observing food distribution to drought-affected community in Borana zone

- Humanitarian funding for emergency preparedness, response was localized through direct grant transfer to women focused and other local CSOs.
- The PRRP among the different community right holders and their agencies, partner organizations and government signatory sector offices
- Regular government monitoring and evaluation visits bring the opportunity to scale up best practices.
- Collecting case stories, conducting KII and FGD with women targets and discussion with RAC facilitators.

- Supervising by local area coordinators and head office program team and MEAL coordinator supportive supervision in program areas ensures quality, action plan development for follow up
- Regular meetings among local and national program teams with senior management team (NPAT and NRPAT) to follow up annual program and project implementations have been the best learning and accountability spaces with in AAE.
- AAE's team engagement with national key actors and its global federation are again spaces for learning and sharing of evidence that have been going at grass roots level and inform program and policy formulations. PRRP – sessions have been conducted at national and woreda and regional levels with respective stakeholders, communities, and partners during midyear. These reflections and program and project review results informed our programming, ways of working and specifically the 2023 planning.

Principle III: Transparency

AAE's HRBA approach is also a means to ensure its transparency. We respect all statutory requirements and do our regular planning and reporting in a participatory way ensuring communities and relevant stakeholders' engagement. We regularly launch our program, clearly showing deliverables and stakeholders' participation level and necessary budgets. We also have transparency boards across our LRPs. We also conducted our regular review meetings to see performance, hear any community concerns or dissatisfaction, and opportunities to link with. Each community member can access ActionAid's planned activity from transparency board that has been displayed in government compound and in ActionAid LRP office compound to ensure transparency and accountability to people living in poverty and stakeholders.

Principle IV: Complaints and Resolutions

ActionAid sets complaint response mechanisms and ensures such mechanisms are accessible to communities through posting in visible areas at its offices. Moreover, the PRRP sessions also served to raise complaints if any and solution and program adjustments implemented. Accordingly, in the reporting period, complaints were received from community/partners directly in our offices, through VCFs and in technical and coordination meetings. Some have got Management's attention and correction measures taken. ActionAid also has the Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse, and child safeguarding Policy. The policies are translated into local languages and posted in visible areas of offices. Such policies also constitute any partnership and consultancy agreements. Some areas of complaints have been delaying in agricultural tool provision than the preferable season; and complains in targeting right holders for humanitarian aid. The complaints have been managed from local level focal persons to the management based on their nature. As AAE strictly follows CRFM mechanisms interns of information sharing, participation and setting Monitoring and evaluation system to respond right holders complaints and respond LRPs reports –community targeting groups – for the humanitarian emergency responses have been established and managed any complaints and feedback with the objective of achieving community satisfaction. CFRM have been established to address concerns from community committees to AAE management level.

8 AAE Best Practices /Lessons Learnt

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

- Organizing and participating young women in movement on climate justice is effective in bringing about changes in the lives of women and the community.
- Women can perform very well if they are supported in capacity building trainings.
- School clubs and WWG proper linkage and coordinated work can foster the elimination of GBV/HTPs in the intervention areas.
- The support of governmental organization increased when there is good implementation of projects.
- Transparency and accountability help to create mutual understanding and collaboration among partners.
- Organizing women only SACCOs and WWGs contributes to power shift.
- Integration among different CBOs and different community sects enhances solidarity and accelerates power shift in a sustainable manner.
- Innovativeness and adaptive management in program implementation enhance sustainability.
- Library support, separate latrines, restrooms, and tutorial classes encourage girl students' attendance and academic performance and contributed to protection from GBVs
- Demonstrating and modelling results of agro-ecology has brought government and other stakeholders onboard.
- Due to the security situation and high inflation rate some activities particularly relating to construction have been either postponed or budget reprogrammed to address humanitarian crises.

Empowering and promoting women leadership

Putting people live in poverty first, solidarity with PLIP, advancing women's rights and promoting women leadership are among the signatures of AAE which needs to 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, Women Watch Groups and Young Peoples Agency formation processes etc.

Accountability and transparency in targeting and distribution of humanitarian assistances.

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

Participation of project owners: AAE involves decisive right holders of interventions from the onset of project cycles to ensure ownership and sustainability. They take part in problem identification, planning,

leading implementation, contributing labor and local materials and take part in evaluation of achievements. Moreover, ActionAid also focuses in empowering communities and particularly women living in poverty to participate and lead various community-based organizations and groups to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the various development initiatives it undertakes.

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



ActionAid Ethiopia supported Insira Clay Works Cooperative, which has 300 low-income women members, with over nine hundred thousand Birr to procure production materials, chairs, and tables to improve members' health, productivity, and profitability.

9 Partnerships

AAE uses the HRBA principles as central approach. The principle of partnership in the 4 of HRBA and its Partnership policy geared its interactions with others. In the first place the communities it works with are number one partners as key stakeholders. Partnership building is also being practiced by all operation level teams and the management of AAE with all concerned bodies. At grassroots level, AAE's partnership strengthened with woreda, zonal and region WCA, education, health, agriculture, Disaster risk management and livestock sectors.

Moreover, AAE is linking with public university community engagement and legal aid clinics to sustain its interventions and build capacities of CBOs. This helped timely and smooth implementation of the project, timely solution providing and sharing of information and resources. At national level, AAE's partnership has increased amazingly including being

preferred partner among key gender justice, good governance, and development actors. It has designed its partnership approach in a way to build on its 4 program thematic priorities.

Local human rights/ women rights organizations, their networks, young people and their agencies, international NGOs, Humanitarian clusters, and CSOs Council have been learning

and sharing partnership platforms for AAE in the year. Moreover, its thematic engagement with the ministry of Women, Children and Youth and UN agencies has been a space to deepen its works, its protection priorities, its inter-sectional feminist analysis and HRBA as well.



Capacity Building of Partners

In the reporting year, AAE has partnered with 19 local partners with technical and financial support of 97,433,539.08 ETB. The list of partners are: Rohi Waddu; (Afar); RADO, (Somali); Rift Valley women and Children Organization, (Oromiya); Action for Development; (Oromiya); PADEt, (Amhara); New Millennium Women Empowerment

Organization;(Amhara); Save Your Holy Land Generation; (Amhara); Ethiopian Scout Association, (National); Inspired Ethiopian Youth Association, (National); Yong Women Christian Association (National, Addis Ababa); Emmanuel Development Association (Addis Ababa); PHE Consortium (National, SNNPR); Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organization (National); Union of Ethiopian Women and Children Association (Addis Ababa, Amhara- Harbu); Ethiopian Human Rights Council (National); Ethiopian Labor Rights Watch (National); Ethiopian women Lawyers Association (National); INSIRA Women Pottery Cooperative (Addis Ababa); and women led SACCOs, WWGs, WPGs across 7 woreda LRPs.

AAE leverages on its former engagements with MOWSA on Gender Policy Revision, GBV Policy Drafting; Women Cooperatives Policy Advocacy, and National Alliance to end FGM and child marriage. It joined hands with UN Women on shared agenda of gender equality. AAE engages with ECSOC - to establish Gender Platform with in the Council (conducted 6 dialogue sessions in collaboration and CSO week celebration) ; Civil Society Academy Africa –CSAA; Ethiopian Economic Association; Humanitarian Clusters; Network of Ethiopian Women Association (NEWA) in Gender in Focus Weekly platforms; and the Federal Courts – Piloting Audio Based Survivor Friendly Court System.

AAE's contribution in strengthening the wider CSOs sectors.

One of AAE's values is Humility – AAE recognizes that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice. Along with this, AAE strives to contribute to a well-functioning and accountable sector. By modeling the way, AAE encourages and supports other local CSOs, collaborate with other likeminded organizations. Moreover, AAE's Country Director sits in the Board of the Authority of Civil Society Organization; serves as Vice Pres

ident of the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council and steering committee of the HINGOs where it influences gender justice across.

10 **Communication and Advocacy**

ident of the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council and steering committee of the HINGOs where it influences gender justice across.

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

Our communication is not merely a platform to inform what we do but also it is a platform we advocate for better policies and practices. In 2022, we focused on advocating for young people's engagement in development, gender justice, peace, climate justice, and human rights; advocating for the creation of decent work and combat human trafficking. To address these, we produced different communication products among others:

A Documentary video

We commissioned the production of project impact documentary video on Women's Right Programme II

B TV spot

We produced tv spot on the Decent Work and aired it on tv stations with a reach of millions of audiences.

C News/Media coverage

We encouraged national and regional media outlets to give news coverage about our humanitarian support to people affected by human and natural disasters and in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Afar, Southern Nations and Nationalities. Media outlets like Amhara Media Corporation, Fana Broadcasting Corporate, Addis Media Network,- Southern Ethiopia Television, Walta tv, etc broadcast about our works and supports.

D Exhibitions

We participated in National Civil Society Organizations' (CSO) Week Exhibition that was visited by high government officials, Directors of national and International NGOs and other CSOs and CBOs. We were able to show our works and impacts, introduce our approaches and create networks with different leaders of organizations for future collaborations. Tens of thousands of people visited the exhibition.



AAE Senior Management members observing food distribution to drought-affected community in Borana zone

E Newsletter

We published quarterly newsletter covering our major social, climate, and economic justice issues.

Newsletter
Ethiopia Country Programme

act:onaid
May 2021

Power In People Power In People Power In People Power In

ActionAid Ethiopia Provides Immediate Response to Support Communities hit hard by COVID, Conflict and Food insecurity in Raya

Food items being transported from Meholi town of Southern Tigray hit by locust, loss of production and armed conflict to affected villages. (Picture credit: ActionAid Ethiopia)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: As quite a sizable population is severely affected by COVID 19, ActionAid Ethiopia continues to mobilize resources to absorb the shock communities have come across. In addition to its functional Local Right Programmes (LRPs), AAE has collaborated with different kind-hearted philanthropists and funding institutions through ActionAid International to extend its support to critically

ActionAid Staff giving orientation to right holders on the modalities of targeting and distribution.

F Social media

We published contents that reflect our major intervention on our social media platforms like Facebook. Our Facebook page is now followed by 2700 persons. We posted and re-posted regional, national, and international activity updates on gender justice, climate justice, and economic justice, good governance, and young people engagements

Advocacy

Advocacy is a crucial tool for achieving our vision of a life of dignity and freedom from poverty. This is possible when governments prioritize investments and improve policies for wellbeing of its citizens by achieving Gender Justice, Good Governance, Climate Justice, and Meaningful Youth engagement which also has an incredibly positive impact on poverty eradication. ActionAid believed that by gaining the support of decision-makers for our cause, we can achieve more.

- In 2022 to strengthen our Advocacy effort towards Child protection/right we actively engaged in the National Child Protection and Policy Advocacy Coalition aiming at influencing policies, generating evidences and putting in place national child information management system to ensure that all forms of child labor including forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking are completely eliminated from throughout the supply chain and advance child wellbeing initiatives in the context of child labor comprising awareness-raising, education, economic empowerment, gender equality, technology, psychosocial support, reintegration and reunification programs. and we become the lead for one of the technical working groups (evidence generation and knowledge management.)
- Media Advocacy- Produced One minute TV/Radio Spot on Combating Human Trafficking, Child labor and Decent work with the objective of: -Enhancing the awareness on Modern Slavery (MS) (ECLAHT) and engagement on the right of individuals, to promote decent work by producing high quality audio and video messages; Advocate towards the ratification of international treaties on decent work; Positively influence concerned state and non-state actors on combating MS (ECLAHT) through advocacy messages.
- Social Media Advocacy on Decent work by sharing case stories of returnees using our different social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube which have over 2000 followers.
- Women Only SACCOs Policy Advocacy – AAE played key role in the National WEE Forum Convening through collaborative advocacy with Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and UN Women, Ministry of Labor an Skills, and Chamber of Commerce.

11 Learning and Reflection

- Improving Communication increases transparency.
- Promote communication and coordination institutionally.
- Leverage partnerships to achieve objectives.
- Women can perform well if properly supported to be organized for their development.
- School clubs and WWG proper linkage and coordinated work can foster the elimination of GBV/HTPs in the intervention areas.
- The support of governmental organization increased when there is good implementation of projects.
- Community can work on GBV/HTP reduction if ownership and capacity enhanced
- Projects are effective if they are coordinated, and ownership enhanced from starting point.
- Proper documentation of each process and implementation output is crucial to timely communicate and share to partners, and presentation to stakeholders.
- Solidarity among women has multi directional impact.
- Creating free space for women through different women group and RAC has contributed for change
- Adult education has a great contribution in changing life of women.
- ActionAid participatory approach can be used as good learning in changing the community.
- Since HTP is deep rooted in the tradition coordinated approach with elders, traditional leaders, and religious leaders able to bring change
- Before economic interventions, prioritizing attitudes and perception shifts is very important to bring the intended women empowerment.
- Rigorous Evaluation and learning from experience advances quality and proves fit for purpose action.

Learning for Humanitarian Interventions

- Our process-oriented programming approach is a basis to ensure sustainability.
- Well rooted partnership with communities and local government and enable us to smoothly implement the project.
- Our transparency and accountability mechanism helps us to build trust.
- Working with local NGOs enable-us to quickly start the communication with local government and responded immediately (PADet, Rohiwedu, RCWDO, Redeem the Generation, AFD etc)
- Establishing Women led targeting committee helps to reach the most vulnerable and neediest people.
- Working in partnership helps to improve efficacy, increase the speed of response, and reduce duplication of efforts and resources.

Challenges

- Conflict and unrest issues particularly in our operational areas
- Lack of funding source due to Ukraine war and COVID-19 and other global economic and social upheavals to the ever-grown humanitarian need and crises in the year.

Opportunities

- Widened Civic space for the civil society organizations through revision of the CSOs law plays pivotal role for advancement of human rights in the country.
- National Women's Policy Revision initiative and action are commendable.
- The establishment of the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council contributes greatly to safeguard the CSOs the space and have strategic representation.

The Nov. 2022 Peace Agreement signed between the Federal Government and TPLF is believed to bring hope, tranquility and peace to the country and the people.



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