



**actonaid**  
**Annual Report**

**2023**

Action for Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication

# Contents

<b>Part 1 - Annual Report</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Chapter 6 - Interventions</b>	<b>45</b>
Acronyms	1	6.1 Construction Achievements	45
List of case stories	1		
Message from AAE Country Director	1	<b>Chapter 7 - Advocacy Impact</b>	<b>47</b>
		7.1 ActionAid Ethiopia's Workin 2023	47
<b>Chapter 1 - Annual Report</b>	<b>1</b>		
1.1 Introduction	1	<b>Chapter 8 - Accountability</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Chapter 2 - Organozational Background</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Chapter 9 - Partnerships</b>	<b>51</b>
2.1 Long-term Vision, Mission, and Objectives	3		
2.2 Organizational Values and Principles	3	<b>Chapter 10 - Communication</b>	<b>53</b>
2.3 Program Priorities	4		
2.4 Approaches	5	<b>Chapter 11 - AAE Best Practices</b>	<b>54</b>
2.5 Program Framework	7		
<b>Chapter 3 - Operation Areas</b>	<b>8</b>		
3.1 Operational Areas	8		
<b>Chapter 4 - AAE's Change Theory</b>	<b>11</b>		
4.1 How change happens	12		
<b>Chapter 5 - Key Achievements</b>	<b>13</b>		
5.1 Priority - 1 - Gender Justice	14		
5.1 Priority - 2 - Good Governance	23		
5.2 Priority - 3 - Resilience	28		
5.3 Priority - 4 - Transformation	37		





Part 1

# Annual Report

## Acronyms

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AAE	ActionAid Ethiopia
AAI	ActionAid International
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COVID	Corona Virus
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HTPs	Harmful Traditional Practices
GEWE	Gener Equality and Women's Empowerment
IGA	Income Generating Activities
LRP	Local Rights Program
PLIP	People Living in Poverty
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
RAC	Reflection Action Circle
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperative
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
UCW	Unpaid Care Work
VAWGs	Violence Against Women and Girls
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment

## List of Case Stories

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**Case Story 1:** I realized that teaching girls has a rewarding effect, Feyine said.

**Case Story 2:** Taking training with my husband was truly a life-changing: the case of Dingat.

**Case story 3:** Youth as Driving Force of Change; Genija Youth Group's Impacts in their Communities of Semen Bench District.

**Case story 4:** Applying Agro-ecology to Protect Livelihood and Restore Nature

**Case story 5:** No Gender-based Role Categorization in our Family

**Case story 6:** 18 days after giving birth, I decided to flee to Ethiopia"- Hayat, a returnee from Sudan due to crisis

**Case story 7:** Resilience Amidst Tragedy

**Case Story 8:** Tosign Rayya Bedhadha (MPC Right Holder)

## Message from the Country Director

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### Introduction

In 2023, AAE continued to build on its Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) by focusing on Empowerment, Solidarity, Campaigning 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. Our achievements in 2023 reflect progress toward our higher-level mission objectives towards creating critical mass of communities. Through targeted programs and initiatives, we strive to deliver on our commitments to drive positive change. Impactful case studies from Local Rights Programs (LRPs) underscore our ongoing efforts and demonstrate tangible outcomes.

Through our HRBA intervention, hundreds of thousands of women, are able to have income at a household level, have alternative means of income, claimed their land and able to produce food, exercised leadership that enhances their dignity and status, enabled to have negotiating and decision-making power, able to send their children to school, improved their living conditions and have been enabled to meaningfully participate in their social, cultural, economic and political rights. Women now exercise their rights to public participation, contrasting starkly with the pre-intervention scenario where their presence in public forums was scarce. Today, women are active participants and decision-makers, signaling a significant positive transformation within the community.

Through our education program which includes the construction of classrooms, libraries, separate toilets, safety rooms, and furnishing all these structures children mainly girls are having a safe and motivating school environment and are able to exercise their rights to quality education.

Our extensive humanitarian work is underpinned by resilience building and recovery that includes maintenance and construction of water sources empowered communities especially women and children to be saved from the consequences of the crisis as well as sustainably saved from being trapped to same shocks.

The young people have been provided with a safe space to interact and learn from each other as well as engage in social issues pertinent to their future.

The various advocacy works we have achieved in 2023 fundamentally support having relevant and contextually aligned policies and frameworks that help communities to flourish.

In this report, we present the performance of ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) during the fiscal year 2023. AAE remains steadfast in its mission to foster gender justice, good governance, and poverty eradication within communities. This report encapsulates AAE's physical and financial achievements, encompassing regular and project-based income streams. It also highlights significant milestones achieved in long-term development endeavors, emergency relief interventions, invaluable lessons learned, and challenges encountered.

The comprehensive data presented herein is aggregated from reports originating from all Local Right Programs (LRPs) and Head Office (HO) donor-funded projects, including collaborative efforts with local implementing partners nationwide. AAE's adaptable programming and agility have enabled swift responses to both protracted and emergent crises, such as conflicts and droughts. Throughout these endeavors, AAE has played a pivotal role in delivering essential aid, encompassing food provision, multipurpose cash assistance, protection services, Wash/NFI (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene/Non-Food Items), as well as nutrition and healthcare provisions, to those affected by multifaceted crises.

In parallel with our emergency responses, AAE remains committed to long-term development initiatives, collaborating closely with marginalized groups such as Women-led Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), Women Watch Groups (WWGs), young people groups and their organizations, educational institutions, gender and environmental clubs, and child parliaments. Rooted in a Human Rights Based Approach, our programming revolves around pillars of empowerment, solidarity, campaign advocacy, and alternative solutions.

Nevertheless, the prevalence of internal conflicts across various regions, notably Amhara and Oromia, has significantly disrupted program implementation, sometimes necessitating the reallocation of development budgets to address humanitarian requirements. Despite these challenges, AAE's proactive stance has enabled the mobilization of additional resources from individual and institutional donors, and international offices to mitigate the impact of crises and sustain ongoing initiatives.

Cognizant of the need to be agile and adaptive to the context, AAE has initiated Peace building programs in the year 2023. AAE designed a strategic Peace Building Framework as road map. It has started piloting Peace Building and Social Cohesion project implementations and small scale research. AAE has also been represented by its CD at the NEW York annual Women, Youth Peace and Security Forum. All the efforts are gearing to contribute toward a peaceful and sustainable Ethiopia where everyone enjoys dignified life.

Moreover, leveraging the opportunities presented by digitalization, AAE has bolstered communication channels, fostering increased engagement with partners at local, national, and global levels.

**Throughout the year, AAE reached a total of 142,656 individuals (of which 91,956 were female) through investments totaling 362,651,310.49 birr, with 88% and 12% for program and administrative costs respectively.**

The report is structured into 13 sections, commencing with this introduction. Subsequent sections provide an overview of AAE's organizational background, operational areas, theory of change, key achievements, learning and reflection, accountability mechanisms, partnership initiatives, and financial status.



**ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) operates as a member of the ActionAid International Federation, officially registered within Ethiopia as an international development organization. Our vision centers on fostering a Just, Equitable, and Sustainable Ethiopia, where everyone is entitled to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty.**

With a legacy dating back to 1989, AAE has been actively engaged in integrated development initiatives, making substantial contributions to the nation's progress for over 34 years, expanding our footprint and establishing operations across various regional states of Ethiopia, and employing both direct and partner based implementation strategies. At the heart of our approach lies the empowerment of communities and their agencies. Through a blend of short and long-term programs, AAE has played a pivotal role in advancing the vision of a poverty-free Ethiopia, facilitating pathways for individuals to embrace lives of dignity.

AAE got financial and technical assistance from diverse sources including committed individual sponsors from the United Kingdom, Italy, and Greece; high-value institutional donors such as EU, DANIDA, FCDO, IRC, USAID, FHI360, IDRC, ECHO, NORAD, Italian Development Cooperation, Irish Aid, CISP, Post Code Lottery, Band Aid, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and individual donors such as Cossolo, Mandodari, Marsoliti, Electric Aid and Change Makers. Our strategic partnerships with ActionAid affiliates such as AAUK, AADK, AAUSA, AA Ireland, AA Australia, AA Netherland, AA Italy and IHART have been instrumental in facilitating resource mobilization efforts, enabling us to further our mission and expand and deepen our reach in the reporting year. The support from government and communities themselves have been of paramount importance for our meaningful operations.

## 2.1 Long-term Vision, Mission, and Objectives

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### **Vision**

A just, equitable, and sustainable Ethiopia, in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty.

### **Mission**

#### ***Empowerment of marginalized communities***

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.

## 2.2 Organizational Values and Principles

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At AAE, our values and principles serve as the bedrock upon which we realize our vision and mission. These guiding tenets shape our systems, methodologies, and organizational culture, fostering an environment that champions the rights, dignity, and empowerment of marginalized communities. We are particularly dedicated to uplifting women and girls living in poverty, as well as children, youth, and marginalized and excluded people and groups. Central to our ethos is a commitment to collaborat



ing with institutions that share our dedication to addressing these segments of society's diverse needs and aspirations. Through these partnerships, we strive to co-create sustainable solutions that drive positive change and promote inclusivity, thereby ensuring that no one is left behind.

## Our Values

AAE ActionAid Ethiopia is dedicated to applying intersectional feminist lens and values in our work, which will guide us in interpreting and advancing our mission.

- ▶ **Mutual Respect:** requires us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity. Equity and Justice require 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 judgments 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. The courage of Conviction requires 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.

Table 1: Core Program Priorities

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

## 2.4 Approaches

**AAE's work is guided primarily by HRBA principles stated below.**

- ▶ **Participation:** ActionAid firmly believes that meaningful and informed participation of PLIP is crucial for successful development initiatives. We are committed to mobilizing and organizing PLIP, mainly women, children, and youth, to engage in critical analysis of their circumstances, explore their options, and actively contribute to identifying development challenges and opportunities through employing different tools. In the reporting year, Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRPs) have been conducted across six LRPs and at the national level, engaging diverse communities, stakeholders, and partners.
- ▶ **Capacity Building:** ActionAid is dedicated to enhancing the capacity and ability of PLIP to catalyze transformative change and collective empowerment. We prioritize creating opportunities to nurture individuals' inherent potential and focus on establishing and strengthening Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), local Civil Society Organization (CSO), mainly WROs, and social movements; and fostering the formation of collectives such as unions, forums, and networks. Throughout the reporting year, we conducted awareness-raising campaigns, skills-building workshops, and exposure visits, and provided seed capital, along with various technical, administrative, and systemic development interventions, primarily targeting women, girls, and young people and their agencies.
- ▶ **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 like-minded institutions. To ensure sustainability and ownership, we actively involve our partners and government stakeholders throughout the program development cycle, from inception to evaluation Knowledge Generation, Documentation, Sharing, and
- ▶ **Learning:** AAE emphasizes the importance of research for identifying development challenges and advocating evidence-based policies. Power shift analytical tool and program tracker, including routine performance monitoring, for our programs in Ethiopia helped to ensure knowledge generation, documentation, sharing and learning. The Accountability tools like National Projects Accountability Team (NPAT); National Regular Programs Accountability Team (NrPATs) and Program Operations Team (POT) will facilitate monitoring project implementation, tracking progress, and generating reports across different levels to achieve program priorities and our Theory of Change.
- ▶ **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 PLIP and vulnerable people.

- ▶ Emphasis will be given to using IT 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.
- ▶ **Mainstream the Views and Needs of Women, girls and Youth:** We meticulously craft every element of our development endeavors to intricately weave in the specific needs, advantages, and aspirations of women, girls and young people, ensuring that their voices are heard and deeply integrated into our plans and actions.
- ▶ **Addressing Immediate and Basic Needs:** AAE will continue to enable PLIP to access essential and basic needs for livelihood improvement and support them during emergencies in a way that builds

resilience. AAE recognizes that the State has a primary responsibility to meet development demands and refrain from duplicating the state's roles and actions. Through facilitating access to basic services, we strictly adhere to the principle of value addition and introduction of alternatives and innovations, not as an end but to mobilize and organize communities to make decisions and partner with other actors.

- ▶ **Advance Innovations and Alternatives:** Our strategies for tackling the root causes of poverty are aimed at shaking up the existing norms and traditional methodologies. We aspire to challenge the established order by advocating for innovative and unconventional approaches. Our grassroots initiatives are pivotal in pioneering these novel solutions, serving as prototypes for widespread adoption and amplifying our overall impact.



## 2.5 Program Framework

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### **Rights (Entitlements)**

It is important to recognize and act up on the notion of women and girls having human rights and the need to facilitate for women and girls conscientized to claim their rights and resist any form of discrimination and oppression. Public awareness is crucial to reveal and challenge any form of visible, invisible and hidden power to ensure respect of women's rights. It is important to recognize the multiple realities/identities women navigate in their lives to holistically realize their rights.

### **Redistribution**

PLIP, especially women and girls must have access to and control over productive resources. Communities and the duty bearers must recognize, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work at household and community level. Public budget distribution and service provisions should be gender responsive entailing developing of appropriate policies, strategies and measures to this end.

### **Resilience**

PLIP and exclusion and those most impacted by crisis must have the resilience to withstand, recover from and transform systems that increase their vulnerability to emergencies. Power must also be shifted to first responders, especially women's, Girl's and young people's organizations at the frontline of emergency response, with increased accountability to these local communities.



### 3 Operational Areas

ActionAid Ethiopia's profile of implementation areas is indicated under the following 2 tables.

Table 2: ActionAid Ethiopia 2023 Local Right Programs (LRPs)

No	Name of Local Rights Program (LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Distance from Addis Ababa (Kms)
1.	Semen Bench	Semen Bench	Bench Sheko	Southwest Ethiopia	585
2.	Shey Bench	Shey Bench	Bench Sheko	Southwest Ethiopia	605
3.	Raya Azebo	Raya Azebo	Southern Tigray	Tigray	650
4.	Ilfata	Ilfata	West Showa	Oromia	150
5.	Guna	Guna Begemidir	South Gondar	Amhara	670
6.	Ameya	Ameya	West Showa	Oromia	144

Table 3: AAE 2023 Operation Area by Project and Partners

No	Name of Local Rights Program (LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Implementing Partner
1.	ALM FGM	Guna and Farta	South Gondor	Amhara	CBOs
2.	ECHO Protection	Tehuledere, Werebabu, Angot and Gazot	Bench Sheko	Amhara	Consortium: (AAE, Plan International, Ethiopia)
3.	SPAII Danida Top Up (Drought)	Wachile	Borena	Oromia	Action for Development Ethiopia (AFD)
4.	Ilfata	Arero, Dilo, Guchi, Moyale, and Wachile	West Showa	Oromia	AAE
5.	USAID Healthy Behaviors	127 woredas (TBD)	-	Amhara, Oromia, BenishangulGumuz, SNNP, Gambella, Addis Ababa	Consortium (AAE, FHI 360, Zeleman, Fraym)
6.	Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPAII)	Elfeta, Ameya, Guna, Semen Bench, Addis Ababa	South and West Shoa; South Gondor; Mizan Tepi	Oromia, Amhara, South-West, Addis Ababa	ESA, YWCA, IEYA, SYHLA, WWGs, Global Platforms
7.	Women's Rights Program III (WRPIII)	Semen Bench and Shey Bench	Mizan Tepi	South-West Region	CBOs, Ethiopian Women Rights Advocate (EWRA)
8.	From Emergency to Resilience (REVERSE Project)	Awbere and Bokolomayo Refugee camps	Liben and Fafan Zone	Somali	RADO
9.	Combatting Exploitation, Abuse, Trafficking and Child Slavery	Kuttaber, Harbu Hosanna, Federal	Hosanna; Harbu, Addis Ababa	SNNPR; Amhara, National	EDA; PHEE, UEWCA, CEHRO (LRW, EHRC, ISFO sub grantees)

No	Name of Local Rights Program (LRP)	Woreda	Zone	Region	Implementing Partner
10.	Emergency Lifesaving for Flood affected woredas (ERM IRC Flood Response)	Ejere, Sebeta Aawas and Illu Woredas	West & Southwest Showa zones	Oromia region.	Crises affected communities,
11.	Sudan Refugees Response	Metema Woreda (Metema entry point, Kumer-Awlala Refugee Site)	West Gondor Zone	Amhara Region	In collaboration with Refugee and Returnees Services, UNHCR
12.	Livelihood Project (DTV)	Raya Azebo, Sekota and Sahla	South Tigray Zone Waghimra Zone	Tigray and Amhara regions	CBOs, Save Your Holy Land Association (SYHLA)
13.	Life-saving emergency support to people affected by the prolonged drought in Arero and Moyale Woredas of Borana zone, Oromia National Regional State.	Arero and Moyale	Borena	Oromia	AAE, CBOs
14.	Girls Led Action	Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa	AAE, CBOs
15.	PPL-Protection project	Lasta, Efrata and Gidim, Gewane and Amibara	North Wollo, North Showa, Gebiresu	Amhara and Afar	AAE, New Millenium, Padet, and Rohi-wedu
16.	AECE-Ameya Early Child Education project	Ameya	South-West Showa	Oromia	AAE, CBOs.
17.	PPL FGM project	Amibara	Zone - 3	Afar	Rohi-wedu
18.	ECHO/HIP	Gazo, Angot, Tewheldere, Werebabo, Wajirat	South Wollo, North Wollo, and South-East Tigray	Amhara and Tigray	AAE, CBOs
19.	DPRF	Metema Woreda	West Gondar	Amhara	AAE, CBOs
20.	AAUK	Metema Woreda (Kumera Awelala)	West Gondar	Amhara	AAE, CBOs
21.	AADK	Metema Woreda (Kumera Awelala)	West Gondar	Amhara	AAE, CBOs
22.	IHART	Mekelle	Mekelle	Tigray	AAE, CBOs







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 organizations through their agencies are critical to drive change that will transform power when led by Women, Girls, and Young People and their allies committed to achieving justice, equity, and sustainability. Collective efforts are more impactful when linked through solidarity and influence between communities, their organizations, and other allies to strengthen the power of people to drive structural change.





**Priority 1:**

**Ensure Gender Justice and Women and Girls' Empowerment through the promotion of their rights**

In 2023, AAE implemented different interventions that have contributed to the protection and promotion of Women's and Girls' Rights from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Economic Justice. A total of **40,531 (24,467 Female)** rights holders have been reached and impacted from the activities implemented under this priority with a total investment of **ETB 96,454,838.56**.

AAE has been empowering women of various age groups and their agencies to tackle the structural causes of violence against women and girls, such as patriarchy, the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work borne by women and girls and entrenched harmful practices, while also enhancing their personal security and economic well-being. The primary aim is to safeguard and advance the rights of women and girls.

A range of core actions have been implemented, including the establishment and fortification of Women's Watch Groups, Women only Saving and Credit Cooperatives, community discussions and coalition-building initiatives, support for girls' clubs and safe education, development of referral mechanisms for GBV survivors, advocacy for essential services, leadership in women's movements, organization, and empowerment of women in economic collectives, and enhancement of women's individual and collective capacities.

Additionally, initiatives such as promoting and supporting adult literacy programs, policy advocacy, and campaign activities to influence engagement on Unpaid Care Work at the local, regional, and national levels have been undertaken. Furthermore, policy level engagements continued where AAE engaged in the revision of the National Women Policy to be adopted as National Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy and also in the drafting of the Gender Based Violence Policy and reviewing the draft Cooperatives Regulation drafted with the intention of broadening enabling environment for women, people with disabilities others with different vulnerabilities to be organized to form their own Cooperative, among others. Advocating for Decent Work and adoption of ILO conventions on GBV in Workplace has been another advocacy area AAE has pursued through the year.

**Focus Area 1.**

**Challenge systemic and structural causes of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in all walks of life in rural and urban**

- ▶ Establishment/strengthening of Women Watch Groups (WWGs) and girls clubs and linking them with like-minded actors continued as a sustainable model to fight VAWG.
- ▶ Through the regular local right programs, there had been continuous awareness raising activities with in the general community and for the school community on the negative impacts of GBV and HTPs transmitted through Mini media by the girl's club and anti-GBV boys club, dialogues, and peer discussions. Towards promoting girls' rights to education, reusable sanitary pads were distributed for total of 2700 girls in Elfeta, Semen Bench, Guna and Farta Woredas. 950 children mostly girls, who could not afford scholastic materials were also supported for the academic year 2016 E.C. Children with disabilities were supported to access their right to education so that they will not be deterred by their impairments.
- ▶ Motivational awards were given for outstanding **female students** and their **guardians/mothers** to encourage them more in their academic performance. The mothers are also developing the positive rewards of teaching girls instead of early marriage and are witnessing that teaching girls is the right decision for a better future of family and the nation. A total of **200 girls** were awarded in Elfeta and in Semen Bench Woredas.
- ▶ Through couple dialogues and awareness raising campaigns, members of WWGs have confirmed that men are increasingly understanding and taking actions towards recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work, by engaging in different household chores. AAE had also continued reducing workload through availing and training to women on alternative technologies like energy saving stoves and by teaching and engaging in the redistribution activities through education and demonstrations at mass outreach programs like International Women's Day (IWD).

With close engagement and advocacy work, in Elfeta 23 Idir/Mahiber have incorporated rules in their bylaws towards prevention of GBV and HTPs which could contribute to sustainable culture that does not tolerate violence.

In the same way in Semen Bench as Capacity building training towards enhancing collaborative effort by religious leaders, traditional leaders and other male actors and watch groups to eliminate the problem of VAW and HTPs was provided for 128 (80M and 48F) program targets.

Policy awareness on SHEA and Safeguarding for communities and partners was also provided by AAE staff and White ribbon 16 Days activism campaign were Semen bench and Shey bench LRPs Jointly celebrated in Mizan Aman at Regional level collaboration with Regional Women, Children and Youth Affairs bureau where discussion on the strengthened and survivor centered GBV services was highlighted.

- ▶ Through the Women Rights Program III (WRP III) with goal of enduring gender justice is realized at all levels of society and women live in safety with economic security and resilience, target **1300 women (900 in Shey Bench; 400 in Semen Bench, Girls 800 (500 in Shey Bench; 300 in Semen Bench); Men 500 (400 in Shey Bench; 100 in Semen bench.** Women Watch groups had been established and trained on GBV prevention and response with due consideration to the needs of survivors to access necessary medical and justice services. SACCOS had also been established and currently **3180 women are benefitting from the SACCOS**, and the **1600 eligible women were able to access loans** and start small business.

- ▶ With the USAID Healthy Behaviors Activity (UHB) which has been implemented in partnership with FHI-360 and other partners, AAE with gender backstopping role in the project to ensure mainstreaming and inclusion, has been providing technical support to the Activity including reviewing different Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategies, Key message development guides for Malaria, Covid 19 and Cholera to ensure gender transformation. AAE has also been closely working on developing the gender transformative programing 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.
- ▶ Through The Girl Generation support to African Led Movement Support to end FGM, which is a regional program under implementation in Kenya, Somaliland and Senegal besides Ethiopia, AAE had continued to conduct interventions at schools, community, local, regional and national level towards concerted efforts in ending FGM/C in the targeted 10 Kebeles of Guna Begemedir and Farta.
- ▶ Woredas of South Gondar, Amhara region. Using Girl Centered Approach (GCA) to empower girls to say no to FGM and other VAWGs affecting their lives. Efforts had also continued to strengthen community level structures like girls' clubs, WWGs, anti-HTP committees and local government in creating movements to end FGM/C.
- ▶ Girl centered peer discussion manual was prepared to guide the peer discussions in and out of schoolgirls. In the schools (750F and 250M) participate in the sessions. At the community level, intergenerational dialogues were conducted monthly for (270M and 230F) in the ten Kebeles before the onset of conflicts and as feasible afterward for accelerated awareness change for abandonment of FGM/C practice.



*Intergenerational dialogue session in TGG ALM FGM program*



*"I realized that teaching girls has a rewarding effect"*



*'I realized that teaching girls has a rewarding effect'*

**Feyine is a 45-year-old divorced woman living in Daba Medhanialelem kebele of Elfeta district. She has three children (2 Female and one male) living with her. She is illiterate and now attending adult literacy. Her two daughters are attending 9th (Aster) and 7th (Abezu) grades, and they are outstanding students.**

'Teaching girls is seen as shame and non-valuable investment in the past time and even now in our community. Most of our community prefer marriage rather than teaching their daughters because they see marriage as a privilege, source of asset (dowry), respect and social bond formation particularly in rural areas like ours. This way of thinking highly harmed our daughters and forced them to be dependent either on their family or on their spouse on all aspects of life. Even though it is difficult to reverse the previously occurred gender-based violence due to the backward way of thinking, the positive fate of our daughter is now in our hand by teaching and encouraging them. In the past, getting Gabi (blanket) was only when daughters were married. After Action Aid came to our woreda and awareness created on the benefit of education and the negative consequences of early marriage most of our community had started teaching their girls and awarded due to their girls' capacity and competencies in their academic performance.'

Feyine said.

The multi-support made for schools (reusable sanitary pads, training for girls' club, the furniture support like combined desk and reference books, provision of mini-media materials, solar and the establishment of safe-space for girls in the schools) by Action Aid and the routine follow up of community facilitators contributed much in encouraging girls to freely attend and score a good result in their academics.

'I am very inspired to take the award due to my daughters high performing status in their academic. The solar and Gabi (blanket) given for us as a reward motivate me and my daughter to be exemplary for my neighbors and community.'

Feyine said.

'I would like to thank ActionAid for the long last contribution to our generation, particularly for our girls in encouraging and advocating to ensure their holistic rights in one way or another.'



**Focus Area 2 :**

**Ensure the economic justice of women and girls and their agencies.**

- ▶ During the reporting period in Raya, three new women's savings and credit cooperatives were established to empower women economically. The cooperatives received leadership training, financial documents, and necessary furniture. The primary objective was to support and strength the targeted 225 women through a revolving fund, providing them with comprehensive training in business skills and livestock management and received livestock.
  - ▶ Similarly, in Elfeta, 73 new saving and credit cooperative members were trained on BBS and were provided with seed money ranging from 4000 to 6000 birr and then engaged in different income-generating activities like, petty trades of cereal trades, small ruminant fattening and rearing and seed capital was provided for three SACCOs. In Guna as well, a total of 80 women living in poverty were able to access alternative livelihood opportunities through the support of a revolving fund. These women received training in basic business skills and livestock management.
  - ▶ In Semen Bench, 250 women who are SACCO members participated in Functional Adult Literacy /FAL/ program. Six schools wash committee members have been trained how to handle constructed school hand dug wells to get clean water and ensure sustainability.
  - ▶ Experience sharing was also organized in a model woreda where 40 participated (25F and 15M). 30 persons (15F and 15M) have been engaged in FAL with 48 women in two Kebeles completed the first and started second cycle. Among these women majority of them could identify alphabets and numeric in Elfeta.
- In Shey Bench, dialogues between spouses, girls, and boys were conducted for 100 persons (50 male and 50 females) together with Woreda Courts and Justice personnel. Five women-only SACCOs were established, and business skills training was provided to 75 persons (65F and 10M); leadership training was also provided for the leaders and a revolving fund of 750,000 birr was distributed to women-only SACCOs in 5 kebeles. This has encouraged saving culture in the community.

- ▶ In Semen Bench, Women's rural land ownership advocacy and awareness creation was carried out for 5 intervention kebeles in cooperation with the woreda Agriculture office, where a total of 190 (150 female) participated. As a result, 2 kebeles / Muyakela and kasha /implemented the land measurement and certification and the woreda Agriculture Office and the kebele land management awarded land ownership certificates to Kasha Kebele 476 women with their husbands and 56 women alone total of 532. In Muyakela kebele 294 women with husbands and 16 women alone a total of 310 women received land ownership certificates.
- ▶ In Ameya, the already established WWGs along with 18 Reflection Action Circles and two newly established women-only SAACOs (Saving and Credit Cooperatives) played a significant role in combating gender-based violence (GBV) and improving the economic status of the community. As a result of these collective efforts, the total membership of the SACCOS reached 366 individuals, out of it 266 women gaining access to credit and achieving economic justice for themselves. This progress led to a total of seven SAACOs, inclusive of 1,614 members (including 111 men).
- ▶ As a secretariat to the National Women Economic Empowerment forum, AAE collaborated with MOWSA and UN-Women to organize the annual Women Economic Forum in Addis Ababa from May 30 to 31, 2023 with the theme 'Innovation and Technology to Enhance Women's Economic Empowerment. In the forum, besides the distinguished Ministers, state ministers and guests from MOWSA, Ministry of labor and skills, UN Women and AAE, it was attended by more than 150 participants from government, CSOs, private sectors, NGOs, academia and UN agencies.
- ▶ Coordinate with Ministry of Innovation and technology in facilitating the access to sex disaggregated data on access to and use of digital technologies. This coordination is called up on considering the ministry's initiation to commission research on digital access and use. The coordination not only addresses the data gap but also is used as input to reforming policies and laws as accelerates women's access to technologies and protect them from potential risks that deter them from being encouraged to using ICT.
- ▶ In addition, as part of the GRoW East African Project, AAE in collaboration with the Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute (PSI) implements a project entitled Supporting WEE and Care Policy Processes and Actions with the aim of addressing the root causes of gender inequalities and hindering factors of WEE. AAE in collaboration with PSI, MoWSA and UN Women organized a two day Quarterly WEE forum meeting in Adama where 50 representatives from 14 regional level women affairs office in Ethiopia and more than 20 representatives from the national level attended. Gender Responsive Budgeting – Rapid Assessment Findings under the GRoW Project and Presentation on the ways of cascading the WEE forum to regions were presented. In addition, panel discussion on promoting Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in the region was conducted. On the other hand, a coalition meeting among Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) actors took place in the year. The meeting focused on several agenda items, including discussions on the WEE Advocacy Canvas (roadmap) developed by WEE actors; a presentation and rapid review of the 10-Year Development Plan on Women's Rights, and group discussions on the sustainability of the coalition's structure.



*“Taking training with my husband was truly life-changing” The case of Dingat.*



Dingat Dolu, 38 has a family of two sons and five daughters and she's from the Menja community from Gola Kebele. "I became a member of the Gola Saving and Credit Cooperative in 2020 and I am now the accountant, being elected by the cooperative members.

As a woman of the Menja community living in a community with limited income-generating opportunities, I have found various ways to generate income for my family, despite the limited opportunities available in our communities. I have taken up pottery, farming root crops such as Godere and casava, and growing coffee in my backyard. I also have a coffee farming land, where I spend days weeding the coffee and false bananas. These activities have been a great help in contributing to our livelihood at home.

However, my husband used to beat and stress me by throwing me out of the home for no reason. During my menstruation as well, I was forced to sleep outside alone. Due to all these and his unpredictable behavior, I was unhappy with my life."

With the intervention of AAE at the Semen Bench Woreda, one of the most significant changes was the establishment of the Gola Saving and Credit Cooperative by AAE and the financial and material support received. I became a member as well as an accountant of the cooperative. I was provided with two sheep for breeding. I was able to generate a profit of 16,000 birr from selling the sheep which allowed me to then buy oxen. Finally, I was able to purchase land and I built a house of tin.

I attended some training organized by AAE and I have to say, they were truly helpful. My husband and I attended at different times; training has given significant change in my home. Now I feel more empowered and confident in making decisions with my husband. Taking training with my husband was truly a life-changing experience for me. I am so grateful for the opportunity.

## 5.1 *Priority 2 :*

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

In 2023 AAE reached a total of 6,737 young people (4,249 Female) directly with an investment of 28 million birr under this program priority. AAE has facilitated empowerment of young people to enhance their engagement on social accountability mechanisms and ensure equitable service delivery at local levels through democratic participation and influencing decision-making process. Capacity-building actions have been part of the implementation to equip service providers with the necessary knowledge and skills about gender-responsive public services. Young people have taken the lion's share in influencing local government bodies to take action for the improvement of services by designing collaborative actions in assessing and reviewing findings.

Mainly, the results achieved in this thematic area were realized through the Strategic Partnership Agreement/SPA II/ project that has been implemented in three regions (Ameya and Elfeta districts of Oromia region, Guna district of Amhara region, Semen Bench district of Southwest Ethiopia region and Addis Ababa city administration. The main objective of the SPAII project is to enable young people, especially women and marginalized people, to 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.

#### ***Focus Area 1.***

### ***Ensure Good Governance for the delivery of quality Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS)***

- ▶ Awareness raising through information sharing and increased understanding to influence attitudes and perceptions on gender equality, climate justice, youth participation, peace building, accountability were done through various mechanisms.

- ▶ The capacity of 108 young people (61 of female) was enhanced on topics of accountability, influencing policies and decision-making, as well as advocacy. Participants were drawn from the project target areas; Ameya & Elfeta districts of Oromia region, Gunna district of Amhara region and Semen Bench district of Southwest Ethiopia region.
- ▶ In addition, 514 young people (282 of female) participated and acquired an understanding of the issues of life skills, governance, democratic participation, gender equality, and digital utilization through dialogue sessions among young people.
- ▶ Fifteen young women from Addis Ababa and Elfeta youth groups led social accountability processes on the topics of youth-friendly reproductive health and gender budgeting by assessing existing practices and service provision. They compiled the information and shared it with the respective government bodies and community members to take action for improvement.
- ▶ Marginalized sections of the society like the Menja community in the Semen Bench district have benefited through the inclusive actions of young people as well as advocating their rights to access and use resources. Menja community members have exercised leadership in committee tasks, witnessed improved access to services, engaged in capacity building trainings and advocacy for sustained inclusion of Menja community in public services, implying respect and dignity too.
- ▶ School-based interventions have given opportunities for students/young people to exercise democratic process through Parliament club, election, voting, and governance issues. They exercised and practiced with the selection of leaders coupled with training.

- ▶ Through a social media campaign, AAE reached 3,150 young people with direct participation through 84 live sessions whereas more than 140,518 youth engaged through accessing information and messages through podcasts. Similarly, 1.1 million people including youth reached through 13 mainstreaming media (radio) works by using different local languages to promote and advocate the issues of gender equality, democratic participation, youth leadership and participation, climate justice, GBV prevention and response, volunteerism, and civic engagement.

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Young women and girls' safe space has been created to empower young women and facilitate discussions on issues that are important to them for fostering their personal and collective growth.

**Focus Area 2 :**

**Ensure the leadership and civic participation of young people in good governance, peacebuilding, social change, and democratic processes.**

- ▶ Young people (74 in total, 33 female) from different parts of the country participated in the national youth policy review process and raised their interests, needs, and concerns. During the workshop, young people raised the issues of youth participation in decision making, culture & globalization, employment opportunities and inclusion. AAE will follow on the process of the policy enactment.

- ▶ The youth groups' members and young women peace ambassadors particularly in the Guna area where active conflict happens contributed a lot in the stability and productive engagement of young people in their localities. 148 young people (61 of female) were trained in peace dialogue facilitation skills and peacebuilding through ToT and cascading. Knowledge and skills gained from the training enhance the youth's understanding of the importance of peace and motivate them to take responsibility in conflict management.

Generally, 49 young people (25 female) took positions in formal and informal local level positions proving their potentials and influencing decision-making.

Organized young people played a key role in facilitating the provision of volunteerism services by responding to vulnerable community needs, environment conservation, and other social services in all target areas.

**Focus Area 3 :**

**Institutional Capacity Building for sustainable development and democratization process.**

- ▶ During 2023, AAE endeavored to build the capacity of young people led and focused local partners and actors to improve their organizational capacity and effectiveness through training & technical support, and resource allocation for their actions. Particularly, four local youth-led and focused organizations have received support from the project to work on empowering young people and ensuring their participation at different levels. They have engaged in youth-led space creation, climate, and humanitarian actions besides digital engagement. On the other hand, young people who organized at a local level were supported to have an institutional setup by facilitating their legalization process and equipping them with the necessary basic facilities. Accordingly, a total of 19 youth groups at district and Kebele levels were established and strengthened to have institutional system.



*“Youth as Driving Force of Change”  
Genija Youth Group Impacts in Semen  
Bench District.*



Genija is one of the clusters Kebele in the Semen Bench districts of Southwest Ethiopia Region. Young people consist of 1/3 of the population in the area and they did not have a stake in changing the existing source of inequalities and social malpractices that aggravate poverty and injustice. Women disproportionately suffered from the violation and denial of rights in terms of access to their assets, properties, and representation in the political system. Particularly, young women are ignored and excluded from active engagement in community activities; they do not get opportunities to voice their interests, needs, and concerns. Generally, society including the local government bodies is characterized by a low consciousness of power imbalance, a patriarchal system, harmful traditional practices, and causative factors of poverty. Within the overall community functioning, young people have had fewer actions by organizing themselves and taking collective actions. There has generally been a systemic lack of confidence and empowerment for young people and their gatherings, and low youth engagement in local development initiatives and governance processes.

Having the essence of empowering young people through lifting the community, AAE has supported young people through capacity building, and technical support as well as enabling them to have an institutional setup. Members of the youth group have participated and developed influencing capacities through workshop, meeting and experience sharing platforms both at national and local levels. They have understood the importance of an inclusive approach to interventions and take collective actions to encourage young people, especially young women, to take on decision-making positions. Members of the youth group's participation at the national level events like the National Youth Policy review, and other platforms in the presence of duty bearers have empowered members to voice their opinions and play a role in the changes observed in their localities.



Being a driving force of change, a youth group of Genija in the Semen Bench district of Ethiopia has been able to realize transformative changes in its community which are presented as model at sub national level. They have advanced in taking actions and claiming the rights of marginalized & vulnerable societal groups. Young people in collaboration with sectors' offices conducted services provision assessment in each sector like health, education, & agriculture to identify gaps in which joint actions have been taken and improvement made in services provision. Through consecutive dialogue sessions among young people and local administrators and state council which accompanied with the enforcement of circulars and enactment of laws and procedures to be implemented in the areas. Equal wage for equal jobs bill enforced as law in the area to ensure the access of young women to have equal job opportunities and benefits. Similarly, the local council issued papers to ensure inheritance of assets for women as well as avoidance of dowry and compensation for broken relationship to eradicate slavery and exploitative practices against women and girls. The local council also addressed the issue of malpractice relating to plantation of eucalyptus trees which affects the biodiversity or ecosystem of the area sustainably by banning new seedling plantations. Moreover, young people's continuous influencing has created opportunities for young people to be assigned in decision-making positions at local levels.

With the remarkable achievements of the group, young people have become rights defenders in their community and influence local government bodies positively to be accountable for their actions. It is expected to scale up these changes to be replicated at zonal and regional levels.



5.1 *Priority 3:*

**Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice Program.**

During the reporting period, a total of 6,756 individuals (5,248 females and 1,508 males) benefited from the intervention conducted under this program priority in Guna and Ameya LRPs with an investment of ETB 39,099,755.02. Through its agroecology and climate justice work, AAE aims to empower communities, strengthen their resilience, and create a more just and sustainable future in the face of unpredictable and unreliable climate change.

AAE has been empowering women farmers, children and young people and their agencies to transform institutions and structures, enhancing their capacity to cope with, mitigate, and prepare for the effects of climate change on their food systems and livelihoods. In the reporting year, AAE designed Climate Justice Strategy to serve as a road map to frame its action. AAE has also launched its Climate Justice Campaign with the Global Fund Our Future Motto.

To contribute to these strategic objectives, AAE has implemented several core actions. These include supporting women farmers to implement agroecology practices; Build capacity and support women and their agency/collectives to promote agroecology as a CRSA and resilience tool; Support and promote Climate Change and Adaptation and DRR interventions that build the absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of women farmers and communities;

Enhance economic alternatives and livelihood options for smallholder women farmers and young people; Promote women's secure access and control over of productive resources; Draw evidences and lessons on agroecology and food sovereignty; Engage in and promote relevant discussions at local, national and global level on agroecology; Work in solidarity with other like-minded and government organizations in promoting and advocating for agroecology and food sovereignty; Support and promote livelihood interventions that can recognize, reduce, and redistribute UCW; Support women and communities built their livelihood capitals/assets through access to finance, inputs and skills; Promote and support women's and community understanding and collective actions on climate change adaptation and financing. In addition, youth groups and children have engaged in various awareness-creation events on climate and economic justice.

**Focus Area 1.**

**Agroecology and Food Sovereignty**

- ▶ The establishment of a demonstration plot in Ameya Woreda, Oromiya region, showcasing various agroecology practices for vegetable and fruit production yielded successful results.
- ▶ Over 400 young women actively participated in activities related to seedling preparation of improved papaya and avocado varieties, as well as local maize production.



### Key achievements

- ▶ The establishment of a demonstration plot in Ameya Woreda, Oromiya region, showcasing various agroecology practices for vegetable and fruit production yielded successful results.
- ▶ Over 400 young women actively participated in activities related to seedling preparation of improved papaya and avocado varieties, as well as local maize production.
- ▶ Within the demonstration plot, 82 individuals (52 female) were directly involved in implementing and showcasing the practices.
- ▶ Additionally, more than 502 participants (52 male) received continuous education on farm management, specifically focusing on soil and compost preparation. These outcomes reflect the significant engagement of young women in sustainable agriculture and the dissemination of knowledge on effective farm practices. The demonstration land is about ½ ha and provided to AAE from the Government for practicing different agroecology interventions.
- ▶ Training and educating 70 women farmers, 30 stakeholders, and 30 development agents on agroecology and conservation agriculture, leads to improved farming practices. on the other hand, in Guna, the program Supported four youth volunteer association agroecology centers on tree plantation, shed construction, and vegetable seed provision.
- ▶ Building the capacity of women farmers and community representatives on natural resource management and environmental protection, specifically for watershed management and Empowering women farmers with knowledge and skills in the production and application of organic fertilizers, such as compost and manure.
- ▶ Facilitating workshops, farmers field schools, and peer-to-peer learning sessions to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among women farmers, stakeholders, and community leaders in agroecology and climate-resilient sustainable agriculture. Organizing knowledge-sharing visits, dialogues, and experience-sharing sessions to foster a deeper understanding of agroecology and food sovereignty among various stakeholders.
- ▶ Training on soil fertility, compost preparation, and crop production was provided to 100 women for 3 days. This training aimed to improve land fertility, increase production, and boost individual income. The targeted women, living within poverty in three operational kebeles in Guna, faced challenges related to soil infertility and acidic soil types. To address the problem, 300 quintals (qt) of limestone were purchased and distributed to two kebeles. The distribution was based on a thorough assessment of severe acidity soil issues and the required amounts. This initiative benefited 67 women. Additionally, all trained women prepared compost at their backyards to enhance soil fertility for sustainable agronomic practices. Furthermore, 30 qt of lupin seeds were distributed to 43 women in Tado Mender Kebele of Guna Woreda in Amhara region to tackle soil acidity and improve soil fertility at the individual level.
- ▶ In Guna LRP, a post-harvest technology and nutrition skills training program was conducted for 100 women. This training aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the targeted women in post-harvest technology, crop production management, and nutrition. The objective was to increase the production and productivity of horticultural crops, ensuring maximum quality and quantity at the household level. The training also improved the understanding of nutrition to enhance the nutritional status of children and mothers.

- ▶ These accomplishments have contributed to the empowerment of women farmers, the adoption of sustainable farming practices, and the improvement of livelihoods in the targeted communities.



*“Applying Agroecology to Protect Livelihood and Restore Nature”*



In July 2023, farmers in Ameya LRP have been rushing to plough their land as the long-awaited industrial fertilizer solely supplied by the government has arrived at their village. This year, due to global price escalation and other external and internal factors such as issues related to supply chain, hopelessness was high in the minds of millions of Ethiopian farmers for fear of missing the rainy season before ploughing and sowing. Very often, millions of tons of fertilizers the government imports arrive to farmers either with price hike or delay or even with both like what has happened this year.

ActionAid Ethiopia works towards strengthening the rights of communities to resilient livelihood by applying Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA), and agroecology, and promoting climate justice to minimize communities' vulnerability to the effects of man-made climate change.

In doing so, AAE encourages communities to avoid the use of artificial fertilizers and genetically modified seeds for their farming. This enables communities to maintain household food security by applying nature-bound practices like substituting expensive industrial fertilizers with natural fertilizers like compost which is affordable and constructive to climate. ActionAid also strives to improve the livelihood of resource-impooverished communities by supporting them with green energy sources such as solar energy and bio-gas energy at the household level.

ActionAid Ethiopia in its Ameya LRP Tumi kebele provided 10 households with bio-gas power supply and compost production infrastructure. Nidhi Adugna, 34, lives with her parents after facing a divorce. One of her two children is the 1st sponsored child of Ameya LRP (code 0001). Like millions of Ethiopian rural families, Nidhi and her parents live on farming and animal husbandry. In their backyards, they grow vegetables like carrots, onions, and potatoes, cereals like corn, and some cash crops. As her mom is sick, she bears most of the work burden of the family. She always wakes up early morning, prepares food for the family, cleans the house and compound, looks after their few cattle, takes care of the backyard farm, and manages the bio-gas power and compost processing structure, though there little help from her old father. The household uses bio-fuel gas as a source of light and energy for cooking. The residue after generating gas power decomposes and becomes natural fertilizer for the backyard farm. Animal dung, human waste, and water are all that the bio-gas processor needs to produce gas energy and natural fertilizer (compost) for the family. Nidhi says that it has been four years since they abandoned applying industrial fertilizer on their soil. "When ActionAid came to our village and introduced compost to us, we were hesitant that our farm could yield without fertilizer we used to buy from the government. But with the repeated awareness and demonstration ActionAid gave us, we were able to discover the solution that was found in our hands and hence shifted our minds to using compost. The use of bio-gas energy has benefited us in many ways. We've stopped using firewood; we've saved our time which gave us more time for our farming and family time. The biogas has also improved our health which was affected by firewood smoke. Because we've stopped using firewood, we believe we have contributed our stake to protect our climate.



*"No Gender-based Role Categorization in our Family!"*



Desita Gerbaba, a 40-year-old woman, is the proud mother of 10 children, with six daughters and four sons. Together with her husband they form a household of 12 individuals. Out of her 10 children, seven are enrolled in school, while the remaining three are below school age. Desita's life was filled with the responsibilities of caring for her large family. She dedicated most of her time and energy to taking care of her children and managing the household. However, she realized that she had been neglecting her own well-being and personal development. Determined to create a better future for herself and her family, Desita obtained opportunities for growth and empowerment.

Desita's story took a positive turn when she became involved in programs facilitated by AAE Ameya LRP. Through functional adult literacy programs/FAL/ she acquired knowledge and understanding of her rights, the well-being of her children, and ways to improve their livelihoods. During this transformative journey, Desita's husband played a key role. Recognizing the importance of sharing responsibilities and supporting each other, he began to actively participate in household tasks, including caring for the children. He also made the decision to stop drinking alcohol, which created a healthier and more supportive environment for the entire family. With her husband's involvement and the burden of household tasks shared, she gained time and opportunity to focus on income generation, start backyard farming and work outside the home. And this freedom allowed her to explore different paths for improving their livelihood.

Desita's determination and the support she received led her to secure a 3000-birr loan from a savings and credit cooperative. With this loan, she started sheep fattening and established a backyard garden for vegetable production. Both activities were successful, and she earned a profit of 4000 birr from sheep fattening and 4500 birr from vegetable production.

Desita's husband played a crucial role in managing the backyard garden, actively participating with the entire family. This collaborative effort not only ensured the success of their agricultural activities but also encouraged a sense of equality and unity within the household. Together, they broke traditional gender roles and embraced a more inclusive approach to shared responsibilities.

The changes in Desita's life, driven by her determination and supported by her husband's active involvement, demonstrate the transformative power of education, empowerment, and breaking gender barriers. Through their collective efforts and the assistance of organizations like ActionAid and the savings and credit cooperative, Desita and her husband have created a brighter future for themselves and their children, where possibilities for growth and fulfillment abound.



Focus Area 2 :

**Climate Justices**

*Key achievements*

- ▶ AAE launched the Climate Justice Campaign agenda with the motto "Fund our Future" with active participation from a wide range of stakeholders. These stakeholders included community members, government representatives, local civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, donors, embassies, media and various climate actors. The campaign events were conducted at both the national level on October 17, 2023, and in a flood-affected community in Oromia on October 18, 2023.
- ▶ The launch included a panel discussion with higher-level climate experts and practitioners, focusing on key topics related to climate justice, such as Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), climate finance, disaster risk reduction, collaboration among actors, agroecology, gender-sensitive approaches, urban environment protection, women's resilience, and Ethiopia's National Determined Contribution (NDC). The discussion aimed to generate insights and recommendations for addressing climate change challenges and promoting climate justice in Ethiopia.
- ▶ The event also included the presentation and discussion of a ActionAid's research report titled "How the Finance Flows - Fund our Future," which shed light on the financial aspects of climate actions. Additionally, various activities were undertaken during the event to raise awareness, including the transmission of climate crisis messages through drama performances, posters, and leaflets, placards, emphasizing the urgency and magnitude of the climate crisis.
- ▶ On the same manner, AAE has developed a Climate Justice Strategic Plan (2022-2026) to serve as a road map to guide its Climate Justice Campaign comprehensively through evidence generation, scaling up tested agroecological practices, and advocating for climate justice actions including climate financing.
- ▶ In collaboration with sectoral offices and Ameya Young People Associations, Ameya LRP organized a capacity-building training program on climate change, adaptation, and mitigation. The training targeted young women farmers and girls' club leaders, with Amaya GP members also attending. A total of 300 participants (45 male) took part in the training, focusing on the concepts and issues of climate justice at the local and regional levels. Following the training, young people organized an advocacy campaign, conducting street activities to raise awareness about the need to fund future initiatives and promote the planting of multipurpose trees in Gindo town and at the kebele level. Young women's movement groups continued their actions on climate justice awareness, conducting door-to-door visits and reaching out to the mass community. More than 865 households received awareness of climate justice, and 480 women living in poverty gained access to energy-saving stoves. Additionally, 520 households in Gindo town were able to purchase electric injera stoves and a young supplier was established in Ameya to ensure a sustainable supply of these stoves.

In Semen Bench and Shey Bench of South West Region, and Elfeta of Oromiya Region, AAE implemented actions promoting energy-saving stoves among women groups, resulting in improved cooking efficiency, and reduced environmental impact and reduction of unpaid care work.

To promote renewable energy, ten biogas plants in Ameya, were established and began providing services. These plants produced over 27m3 of bio cellar, which was used for soil fertility enhancement and vegetable production. In addition, AAE provided solar energy lamps to 590 excluded Menja women targets in Semen Bench and Shey Bench Woredas



- ▶ AAE also facilitated Climate Related Education for different actors. In Ameya, three days training was provided for 78 [54F] children at school and 17 [3F] schoolteachers and organized an African Child Day event to create awareness of climate-smart agriculture and action, to enhance the capacity of rural communities on natural resource conservation, biodiversity, and afforestation, to ensure the sustainability and benefit of each water shade available in Guna with woreda partners and participated students and teachers after the training, they have participated in the plantation campaign.

Target marginalized women in Semen bench and Shey bench were also provided with agricultural skills training and were also trained; provided with seeds so that they diversify their income. Towards resilient livelihoods, training on agroecology was provided and solar lamps were provided to promote green and sustainable energy use.

- ▶ In celebration of World Environment Day, a woreda-level event was organized, engaging community members in panel discussions and environmental cleaning activities. The event successfully raised awareness about environmental conservation and promoted sustainable practices within the community. Additionally, the transportation and planting of 72,550 tree seedlings in communal watershed lands across three kebeles of Guna contributed to reforestation efforts, benefiting communities in four kebeles. These actions have fostered an increased understanding of climate change, promoted environmental conservation, and positively impacted the local ecosystem.

- ▶ Furthermore, watershed management training was provided to 60 members of the Watershed Development Committee, with a specific focus on enhancing their understanding and capacity in watershed management practices. Collaborating with the agricultural office, orientation training on watershed management was also provided to 72 kebele agricultural experts, including 32 females. These initiatives aimed to create awareness of the new natural resource management proclamation and improve the rural community's ability to conserve natural resources and effectively manage watersheds. Additionally, by sponsoring women's participation in planning and decision-making sessions related to Watershed Management and Hillside Development (WSHD) management, the program promoted gender inclusion and empowered women in the decision-making process. These achievements collectively contribute to increased knowledge and awareness of climate change, improved environmental conservation practices, enhanced watershed management, and the empowerment of women in natural resource management processes within the Guna area.

- ▶ From December 4th to 12th, AAE was represented at CoP28, constituting the CSOs delegate from Ethiopia. The engagements included attending meetings with CSOs, UN agencies, and similar entities, as well as joining campaigns and demonstrations related to climate justice in the COP. The objective of the meetings was to facilitate the sharing of experiences and discussions on climate-related interventions among the different delegates. By attending these meetings, the AAE was able to establish a strong network with local stakeholders and gain valuable insights into climate-related interventions in the country.

- ▶ These accomplishments highlight the successful capacity-building efforts, advocacy campaigns, and renewable energy initiatives that have contributed to increased awareness, improved livelihoods, and sustainable practices in the community.



5.3 *Priority 4: Driving transformative women-led Community-based emergency preparedness, Response, recovery, and the right to protection*

Ethiopia's humanitarian needs have been increasing due to the different natural and human induced Drought, Flood, Desert locust and conflict within the country and conflict in the neighbouring countries such as Sudan and Somalia. During the year the country faced hundreds of thousand of IDPs and received refugees and returnees. Millions of people flee their homes empty of hands and many others exposed to different human right violations. As a result of the multiple and overlapping hazards mainly the impacts of the Northern Ethiopia's conflict on communities in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions and different parts of Oromiya, the drought in the Southern and southeastern parts of the country (Oromia, Somalia and SNNPRS) communities, mainly women and children remained desperate with high need for humanitarian assistance. The 2023 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires US\$3.99 billion to target more than 20 million people across the country. This includes an estimated 4.6 million internally displaced people (IDP)-Relief web.

ActionAid responds to different multiple crisis occurred in different parts of the country i.e. the Northern Ethiopia conflict (Tigray, Amhara and Afar), the Borena and Guji drought, the flooding in Oromia and Afar, the IDPs mainly in Mekele, Raya, Sekota, Debretabor, and Southwest showa and the returnees and refugees at Metema from the Conflict in Sudan and refugees in Somali region (Aw-berie, Beklomayo and Melkadida) camps due to instabilities in Somalia. AAE mobilized resources from donors such as IHART/DPRF, AADK, Band-Aid, Danida, DTV, EU/IRC, and internal sources to provide emergency food, MPC, NFI, and protection support livelihood recovery and resilience building through seed, fruit seedlings and sweet potato cuttings provision in partnership with local partner SYHLA.

Pre-existing gender inequalities are often exacerbated during crises. Therefore, Women and young people leadership in Humanitarian response is one of the key signatures of ActionAid which guided all our humanitarian response is led through Women leaders selected from the community by the active participation of the community themselves.

Therefore, through women and young people leadership we are trying to shift power and reach the most affected community segments and ensure transparency and accountability. The Women and young people leadership in the emergencies gives opportunity to challenge existing power structures and imbalances within the community.

On the other hand, AAE has engaged in promoting Localization of humanitarian action, as one of our humanitarian commitment globally.

During the reporting period ( 2023) through the women and young people leadership, community-based lifesaving and protection emergency and resilience/ recovery responses, a total 71, 005 (48,922 Female) people affected by overlapping hazards such as drought, conflict, flood and epidemics have been rescued and protected through the provision of food, Multipurpose cash, protection health, and nutrition, Wash/NFI/ with a total budget of 125,119,731.

*Key achievements*

- ▶ The response process has contributed to creating effective women and young leadership in targeting and resource administration.
- ▶ During the year we have trained more than 173 (70% Women and young people) leaders on core principles, humanitarian signature, and humanitarian standards including SHEA and safeguarding policies in all the affected areas. Then these leaders have effectively and efficiently led the response process, targeting, compliant handling and distribution of the response with close technical support from AAE in all over the country and its local partners.
- ▶ Women and young people leadership in the emergencies gives opportunity to challenge existing power structures and imbalances within the community.
- ▶ Women households were able to present their complaints without fear and reservation to the women targeting committees.
- ▶ As part of the humanitarian recovery intervention, 1,253 WWH have started livelihood recovery activities and become successful.

Response to	Funding source	Description	ETB	People reached	F	M
Drought	Danida Top-up	Emergency Response for Borena	34,567,570	18,900	9,639	9,261
Northern crisis	PPL/protection	Humanitarian response in Amhara and Afar region	7,127,000	7,494	6,142	1,352
Northern crisis	ECHO/HIP	Protection Project for the Northern Crisis	12,980,606	10,262	7,669	2,593
Locust Infestation		Reverse Project	13,479,704	3,790	2,977	813
Flooding	IRC/Echo	Flood Response	32,443,312	5,395	4,876	519
Refuge	DPRF	Sudan Refugees and Returnees	2,703,812	1,229	654	575
Refuge	Danida	Sudan Refugees and Returnees	2,700,000	5,550	3,395	2,155
Refuge	AAUK	Sudan Refugees and Returnees	1,970,748	6,584	4,706	1,878
Drought	AADK	Drought/climate-affected communities	1,640,365.00	210	210	
Drought + Conflict	DTV	Drought and conflict-affected communities	972,600	1,200	1,000	200
Drought + Conflict	AADK	Droughts and conflict-affected	3,500,000	253	177	76
Conflict	IHART Tigray	Conflict	1,412,800	176	176	176
Drought + Conflict	Regular	Droughts and conflict-affected	7,337,213.64	7,982	5,915	2,067
Drought + Conflict	Regular	Droughts and conflict-affected	2,284,000.00	1980	1,386	594
			125,119,731	71,005	48,922	22,083

Table 4: AAE Emergency response (life saving)

# ActionAid Ethiopia's Humanitarian

## Multi-purpose Cash Disbursement for Returnees of Sudan

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ከሱዳን ለተመለሱ ሰዎች የገንዘብ



*"18 days after giving birth, I decided to flee to Ethiopia." Hayat, a returnee from Sudan due to crisis.*

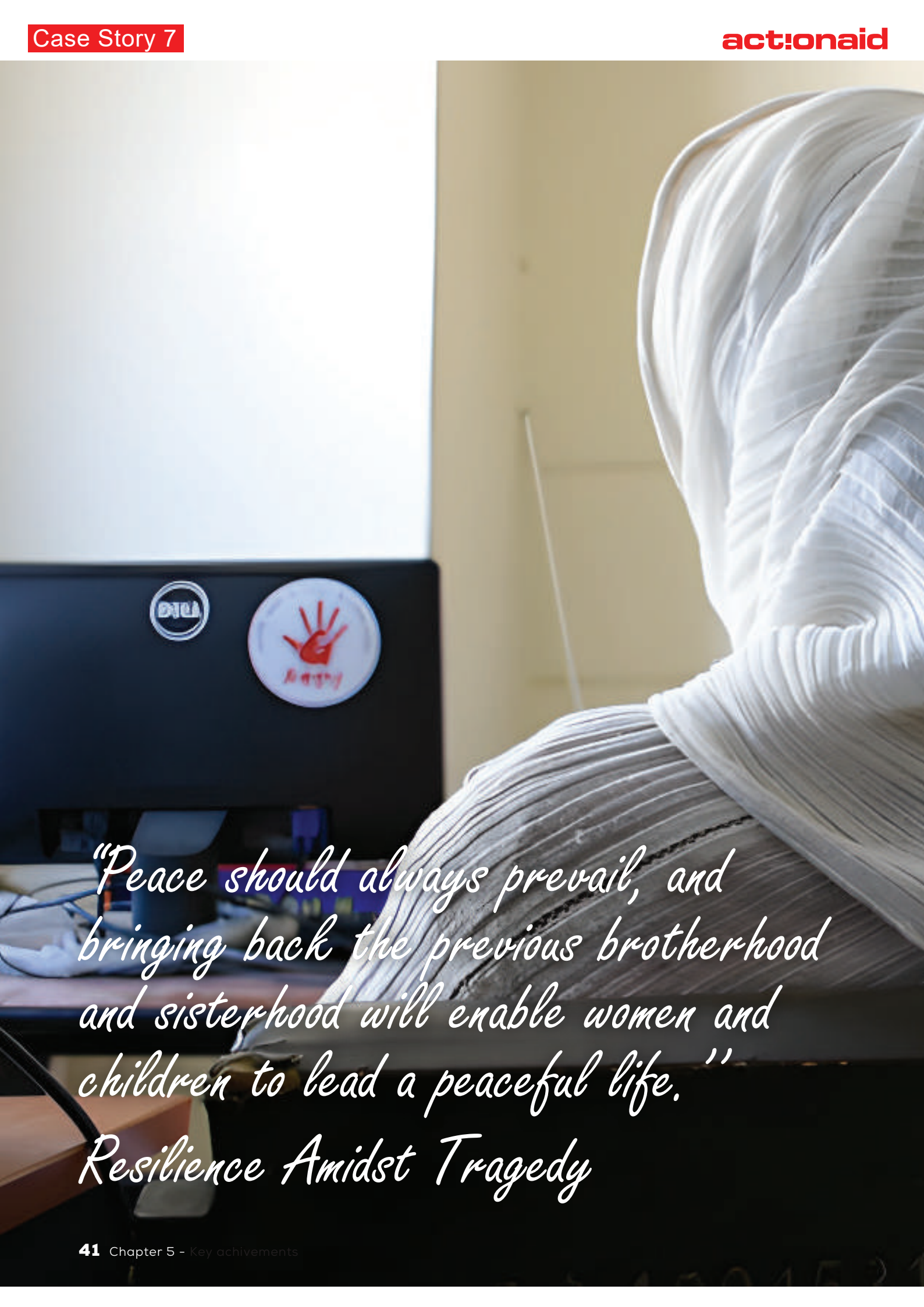


Hayat Tekele, 35 years old, is married and have 4 children (1Male and 3 Female), the eldest child is only 18 days old. She lived in Sudan's capital Khartoum for more than 10 years working small business with her husband. She said that she was pregnant at the time the conflict in The Sudan started and it was not possible to travel to health facilities, hence forced to stay at home where she gave birth to her child without any clinical or health facility support but only her sister's. That time was difficult, but thanks to God my child and I were in good condition. After 18 days we decided to leave the war place and move to Ethiopia. Of course, the travel was full of challenges. The transportation cost was very expensive; I lost all my money, my cellphone, and other materials in addition to psychological abuses I and my children faced due to bad words and mistreatment by different persons at different places repeatedly," she explained.

For ActionAid, disaster-affected people have the right to assistance – when a disaster strikes. ActionAid aims to save lives and protect people's rights in a crisis like this. Based on the assessment and gathered information from the West Gondar Zone disaster prevention and food security coordination office, as well as daily updates of UN agencies such as UNOCHA and IOM, many refugees and returnees are crossing the Ethiopian border and the majority of them are entering the country through Metema. More than 75% of the displaced people are returnees. Among these vulnerable people, ActionAid gave support services to women and girls returnees who were in critical condition.

Hayat is one of the returnees who came from Sudan; she was depressed due to her husband's work in Khartoum and returned with her children while facing difficulties. The humanitarian response selected her based on the criteria (the level of challenges she was in) for multipurpose cash support. Accordingly, she received 7000.00ETB based on the size of her family members.

Hayat finally says, "I'm so happy and grateful to ActionAid Ethiopia for this money to feed my children and allow me to travel safely to my family." She also expressed her gratitude to the team for handling the distribution of cash without any complaint and with a prompt response at the Metema entrance point especially for mothers with children.



*"Peace should always prevail, and bringing back the previous brotherhood and sisterhood will enable women and children to lead a peaceful life."*

*Resilience Amidst Tragedy*



Ayida, 30, used to live and run her restaurant and farm business in Maikadra. She is a single mom of three children. When the war broke out three years back in Northern Ethiopia

Ayida speaks her story: “When I saw those atrocities, I desperately fled to Tekeze area to rescue myself and my children. But I couldn’t escape the rape. After I stayed for a month in Tekeze without any help, I moved to Shirie town to seek help for medical service and safety. There, the medical people told me I have contracted sexually transmitted Infection due to the rape and gave some medicine. But again, very shortly, the conflict expanded to Shirie forcing us to flee to Mekele (the capital city of Tigray region).

Despite medical service and life Mekele was better than Tekeze and Shirie, however, my mental and physical suffering persisted. I couldn’t feed my kids, and they make me cry when they cry remembering the past peaceful and good life, we had in Maikadra. Previously, I was busy with my business and taking care of my children but now because I am idle, I am always disturbed remembering the sexual violence.

The recent cash support of Birr 7000 by ActionAid has somehow helped me to regain my mental health because I am busy with the petty trade I started using the money. But as everything is expensive, we can perform better if get more support with some equipment we need to run our micro business. I wish peace prevails and I go back to my village and resume my business and give good care of my children who suffered a lot. I love being busy with activities and it is only then I forget my problems. She said, “Peace should always prevail, and bringing back the previous brotherhood and sisterhood will enable women and children to lead a peaceful life.”





*"This is very exciting for my family.  
Now we have a good future!"  
Tosign Rayya Bedhadha  
(MPC Right Holder)*



Following the devastating flood attack happened in Awash Belo kebele of Sebeta Awash woreda towards the beginning of August 2023, many HHs were severely affected losing their assets including HH utensils, farmland and grazing fields that exposed them to acute food insecurity and other economic and social problems. Tosign Rayya was one of them. She expresses the situation as follows:

'My name is Tosign Rayya. I am 75-year-old. I live in Awash Belo kebele in Sebeta Awas woreda. I lost my husband many years ago. I have five family members to take care of. I have a farmland where I cultivate lentils for cash and Teff for food during normal times. As usual, Teff crop was planted on 1 hectares of land towards the end of July. While it was on germination stage, a sudden flood from the nearby Awash River inundated the farm and swept out the crop. Nothing was left behind. My house was also flooded suddenly. It was during night time and we could not take any measure except running to escape and save our lives. Fortunately, no life was lost. The flood left my family without food and swept out everything we had. We went out and settled on a street without shelter. It was in this situation that Actionaid people came to the village and asked us about the situation. We told them everything and they took pictures and went back. They came back after two weeks carrying blankets, mats, plastic sheets, solar batteries, soap, water jericans, jugs, solar batteries, soap, water jericans, jugs, kitchen utensils and the like. They distributed them to most needy HHs since the items were not enough for everyone.

After one more week, Actionaid officers came to the village telling us to gather and discussed on the problem. On the meeting, they told us that there was good news for us. The moment we heard that our appeal for help was accepted by the donor, everyone was thrilled. They told us to form a screening committee along with a complaint handling committee among from the residents to select most affected families for Cash assistance. Considering severity of the problem my family experienced, It was fortunate that the committee nominated my family to be included in to the cash assistance. I received three rounds of cash support from ActionAid. It was Birr 6900 per round for three months. I received a total of Birr 20700. With the 1st and 2nd round supports, I bought food items including cereals and vegetable for the family. That saved our lives. With the 3rd round support, I bought lentil seed for replanting the flooded farmland. I expect the production in the coming two or so months. Lentil is a cash crop in our area and It is relatively an expensive crop. I will sale it and buy more cereals for the family. This is very exciting for my family. Now we have a good future. Thanks to ActionAid and IRC for the support that saved our lives'.

## Chapter 6

### Construction Interventions and Achievements

AAE is committed to promoting gender justice, good governance, and poverty eradication through a wide range of interventions. As part of these efforts, we design and implement construction projects aimed at improving access to basic services such as water, education, access to justice and economic rights for women and girls. In 2023, we plan to invest a total of 28,602,275.94 ETB from our annual budget into construction projects.



S.no.	Description	Total Cost (ETB)	Project Location
1	Construction of Library block and Female-male separated Toilets	5,244,226.19	Southwest Ethiopia, Bench Sheko Zone, Semien Bench Woreda, Genja Kebele
2	Construction of Women Watch Group Office (Office block and Premise Fence)	4,940,967.93	Oromia Region, Southwest Shoa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gindo town
3	Construction of Library and Girls' safety Room	1,977,693.92	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Tumi-Bino Sombo Kebele
4	Construction of Preschool and Toilet Blocks (Finalization works)	2,440,151.49	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gulti Bola Kebele
5	Construction of Dining room, Toilet block, and water supply system	3,165,334.96	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gulti Bola Kebele
6	Hand Dug Well Development	182,957.31	Oromia Region, Southwest Showa Zone, Ameya Woreda, Gindo town
8	Construction of SACCO Office (comprised of Office Block, Shower and Toilet block and Premise Fence)	4,296,533.75	Amhara Region, South Gonder Zone, Guna Begemdir Woreda, Kimir Dingay Kebele
8	Construction of Girls' Safety Room	789,586.84	Amhara Region, South Gonder Zone, Guna Begemdir Woreda, Kimir Dingay Kebele
9	Borena Emergency WASH, Nutrition, and Health Response Project		
9.1	Water Supply Scheme rehabilitation and maintenance (Kadim and Magole Kebeles)	415,837.14	Oromia Region, Borena Zone, Dillo Woreda
9.2	Borehole Maintenance (through Submersible and Diesel Generator replacement)	3,131,377.12	Oromia Region, Borena Zone, Dillo and Moyale Woredas
9.3	Hand-dug well maintenance (Through Hand Pump Replacement)	608,000.00	Oromia Region, Borena Zone, Guchi and Moyale Woredas
9.4	Dry Pit latrine constructions at Schools and Health Centers	1,409,609.29	Oromia Region, Borena Zone, Arero, Wachile, Guchi, Dillo and Moyale Woredas
	TOTAL	<b>28,602,275.94</b>	

*Table 5: Summary of Construction and WASH projects in FY 2023.*

## Chapter 7

### *Advocacy Impacts in ActionAid Ethiopia's Work, in 2023*

Our advocacy work is also framed in this manner, striving towards ensuring an increment of power within, challenging power over, and strengthening power with and power to of women, girls, and communities living in poverty so that they have more decision-making power, challenge patriarchy and structural causes of discrimination and claim their rights.

In the year 2023, AAE has been able to carry out various advocacy and campaign activities in our programs and priorities which can be testified by the progress and impacts we have registered.

#### *Women's and Girls Right*

Women's economic empowerment - our prolonged advocacy on a legal revision of the Cooperative law which allows women-only SACCOs has been yielding fruit. AAE, a member of the National WEE forum and the CSOs WEE coalition, has been proactively waiting over the long-initiated policy revisions, challenging provisions interpreted to limit women's economic rights. As a result, a draft regulation has been drafted and AAE has reviewed and contributed to.

GBV Policy Drafting - Parallely, AAE actively engaged in GBV policy drafting constituting a drafting committee member established by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and contributed until submission to the Ministry of Plan Commission, defending the policy and final refinement process.

GEWE Policy - In the same token, AAE has been proactively engaged for more than 3 years in working on the National Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Policy Enactment, a policy to replace the National Ethiopian Women Policy.

AAE again, successfully advocated for the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation along the National Alliance to End FGM and Child marriage initiatives. It was able to facilitate Linking and networking meetings with national actors working on the matter for successive collaboration and prioritization.

AAE has also hosted the Muslim Religious Ulama high-level consultative meeting toward ending FGM advocacy along with UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs.

AAE with Girls Led Action initiative has been able to empower girls to design advocacy messages to challenge GBV and promotion of access to referral services for GBV survivors. With this about 5,000,000 (1 million per region) people nationally have been reached through the Ethio Telecom SMS messaging. Moreover, through National and Regional mainstream 7 TV channels and radio stations, 12 Radio spots and 7 animation videos have been broadcasted. In addition, the social media of such popular channels have transmitted the key messages where our reach has been a massive number of communities in diversified means.

#### *Decent Work/ Business and Human Rights*

AAE in its effort towards human rights promotion has been particularly engaged in challenging human trafficking, child labor, and exploitation. AAE successfully engaged in creating and facilitating Advocacy platforms on business malpractices, and legal and policy frameworks that bring together like-minded CSOs and INGOs in the ratification of two ILO conventions C189 and C190.

AAE has engaged in the 8th and the 9th UN intergovernmental Negotiations on UNBT on Business and Human Rights at Geneva towards ratification of the treaty in solidarity with other CSOs. Moreover, AAE co-hosted the Africa Human Rights and Business Summit at the African Union, in Addis Ababa, and participated in similar platforms in South Africa and Ghana.

AAE engaged in advocating for Decent work through printing (12 articles were published in the magazine) and seven mainstreaming media advocacy channels to transmit spots, and panel discussion messages regarding exploitation, human trafficking, and child labour in national media which is believed to have millions of viewer rate.

AAE also Engaged in reviewing the process of migration policy.

### *Young People Civic engagement*

Media Engagement: - 84 social media events were done to advocate and campaign the issues of gender equality, climate justice, peacebuilding, youth civic engagement, environment protection, volunteerism, and peacebuilding. Through these events, it was able to address 2,018 people with direct participation in the events and more than 138,500 persons through podcast view, like, and share with indirect participation. The media works were channeled through the YNE/Youth Network Ethiopia telegram group which has more than 40K members, the GP Ethiopia telegram group which has around 400 members as well as through local partners' Facebook, Instagram, and telegram groups. Through mainstreaming media, it was able to run 11 sessions focusing on the issues of climate justice, prevention of gender-based violence, gender equality, environment protection, youth civic participation, peacebuilding, and national dialogue process.

### *Climate Justice*

Climate Justice Campaign Launch – AAE aligned with ActionAid Federation's Campaign, has organized a grand launch in the presence of 120 participants including government, academia, young people, crisis-affected communities, embassies, and other like-minded actors. AAE called on the global polluting powers to pay attention to the rapidly deteriorating climate that is devastating the lives of the world population. This campaign anchors against manmade deforestation, aggressive agrochemical markets, and other greenhouse damaging acts that are wiping out agroecological farms of billions of smallholder farmers, especially women farmers that feed the world. Women decision-makers and leaders upfront to address issues connected with accessible, affordable, and efficient sources of energy like energy-saving stoves. The importance of the grassroots level to solve problems in practice is discussed to achieve better.

### *Humanitarian*

AAI is one of the signatories of the Grand Bargain Agenda and has been implementing the localization agenda since the GB Agreement launched in 2016. As part of our localization agenda a workshop on the same was conducted to strengthen efforts and initiatives and create awareness for our local partners including community organizations (WWG) and local CSO. Partners were aware of the localization agenda and the need for their active involvement in the humanitarian clusters and other related spaces to achieve the global localization agenda in the country. As a member of the HINGO AAE have been actively participating through our CD.

### *Human Cost of Food Prices*

AAE, in the face of the alarming price inflation mainly reflected on food prices in the country, has surveyed its impact on the lives of the people living particularly in poverty. AAE in collaboration with FAO, the Ethiopian Economic Association, and the REACH Initiative launched the survey report and published and disseminated the results to key actors including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Plan and Development, local CSOs, and other Humanitarian actors. AAE's HRBA has been emphasized in looking at the matter, particularly the right to food and sustainable and durable solutions to enhance food systems to address food crises.

### *AAE at Macro level CSOs spaces*

AAE also has been playing crucial role in civic space. Such spaces like the HINGO where AAE's CD sits as steering committee member, ECSOC as Vice president as well as technical and financial support amounting 10 million Birr and the Authority of Civil Society Organizations where AAE's CD sits as a Board member serves as key spaces to constructively engage on strategic issues like vehicle taxation, support the in drafting and framing directives of ACSO that are crucial in shaping the civic space and building institutional leadership. AAE is also serving as Advisory group for National Dialogue Commission through the Country Director.

### *CSO Week Celebration*

AAE has played a critical role in advancing the role of CSOs through its proactive and meaningful engagement at CSO week in 2023 where it has demonstrated its accountability to the community, the government, and the CSO sector. AAE uses the opportunity to share experiences and disseminate knowledge and resources of its mission. AAE invested 1 million birr and led Panel discussions on Gender Today, Peace Building and Decent Work and Child Protection. AAE has also demonstrated its national endeavors through a well-organized booth where communities presented their lived experiences and testimonies. The booth of AAE was also visited by Ministers from Ministry of Justice, Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Plan and Development and other key officials including Director of ACSO. AAE has been recognized and certified for its overall strategic support to the Civil Society Organizations Council in the year with close to 10-million-birr investment.

### *National Dialogue Engagement*

AAE supported the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council intending to ensure Women and Youth Inclusive National Dialogue for Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia. AAE invested total of 6.4 million Birr that granted ECSOC to mobilise CSOs across the country to support the national dialogue process.

According to Women and Young and their agencies have been aware, mobilized, and equipped with knowledge and skills for meaningful participation in the National Dialogue process. Moreover, mainstream media campaigns have been used as a means to raise the consciousness of the general public for meaningful engagement in the national dialogue process.

### *Engagement with the National Election Board of Ethiopia*

AAE has supported the NEBE (National Election Board of Ethiopia) total of 356,000 Birr in the dissemination of a study on Violence against Women in Elections. The study report was presented in the presence of election stakeholders including CSOs, political parties, and other like-minded actors. The issue of VAW has been emphasized before, during, and post-election, and the need to address the matter comprehensively with the promotion of meaningful women's right to assume leadership and the right to vote.

## Chapter 8

### *Accountability*

AAE places a strong emphasis on accountability across all its projects, including those funded by donors and sponsorships. We employ a thorough data analysis approach, disaggregating data. This enables us to assess our effectiveness in serving our diverse stakeholders. We also meticulously examine data regarding the number of stakeholders, their outcomes, and satisfaction levels to derive meaningful insights that inform programmatic decision-making.

To foster transparency and uphold accountability within our operations, we've meticulously devised a series of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating our implementation across various platforms. Among these, the National Project Accountability Team (NPAT) convenes every two months, serving as a cornerstone for oversight. Similarly, the National Regular Program Accountability Team (NrPAT) also gathers bi-monthly to scrutinize our endeavors comprehensively.

Further refining our approach, the Project Operation Team (POT) conducts specific meetings to delve into project-specific matters, facilitating in-depth discussions among the dedicated teams involved in each initiative. These platforms collectively fortify our commitment to accountability throughout our program interventions.

Moreover, we embrace the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) as a pivotal avenue for accountability assurance. This process engages both rights holders and stakeholders in a biannual evaluation of program effectiveness, spanning from the grassroots level up to the national level. Through the active involvement of rights holders, stakeholders, partners, government entities, and donors, each participant plays an instrumental role in upholding accountability standards across the board.



# Chapter 9

## Partnership

In the reporting year, AAE has partnered with diverse actors working on the overall goal of Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication through grants, technical assistance, networking and joint Advocacy. In total AAE has worked with 205 partners as indicated in the below table.

Total partners - local = 19	Total partners who are social movements = 165	Total partners - International = 10	Total partners who are young people led orgs = 4
Ethiopian Women Rights Advocate	Youth Network Ethiopia	HINGO	YWCA
PADEt	Yellow movement	CISP	SYHLA
NMWEO	Raya SACCO = 3	HEKs (Swiss Church Aid)	IEYA
RVWCA	Raya WWG = 5	Plan International Ethiopia	ESA
ROHIWEDDU	Elfeta SACCO =13	IMMAP	
EDA	Elfeta WWG = 17	UN Women	
Ethiopian Human Rights Council	Guna SACCO = 4	Irish INGOs	
Labor Rights Watch	Guna WWG = 18	VSO	
IFSO	Farta WWG = 5	ChildFund	
ODA	Ameya SACCO = 7	FHI 360	
Table (Terbeza)	Ameya WWG = 28		
Marry Joy	Semen Bench SACCO = 11	Total partners who are networks/coalitions = 8	
ANNPCAN	Semen Bench WWG = 21	Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations	
Mhibere Hiwot	Shey Bench SACCO = 5	Union of Ethiopian Women and Children Association	
PETCO	Shey Bench WWG = 5	PHE	
AFD	Guna YP movement = 4	CCRDA	
Zeleman Communications PLC	Semen Bench YP movement = 6	PHELEM Ethiopia	
Fraym	Ameya YP movement = 6	National Alliance to end Child Marriage and FGM	
Ethiopian Humanitarian Clusters	Elfeta YP movement = 4	National WEE Forum	
	Addis Ababa YP movement = 1	Network of Ethiopian Women Association (NEWA)	

Table 6: List and Number of Partners and Grants.

2023 Partners Grant for program intervention (the grant is allocated to ensuring 80/20 program admin ratio)				
Partner list	Development Area	All Program Priorities		
		Budget Allocated	Utilized	%age
Union of Ethiopia Women and Children's Association (EWCA)	Amhara region S/Wollo Zone Kalu woreda (Harbu)	11,464,379.46	11,266,918.66	98%
Consortium of Ethiopia Human Rights Organization (CEHRO)	Addis Ababa	6,737,294.95	5,623,038.37	83%
Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)	SNNPR, Hadiya Zone, Hosaena Woreda (Soro).	8,504,954.38	8,222,250.15	97%
Population, Health and Environment Consortium (PHE)	Addis Ababa	3,614,895.82	4,169,673.61	115%
Ethiopian Women's Rights Advocate	Addis Ababa	1,385,792.40	1,364,687.76	98%
Save Your Holy Land Association (SYHLA)	Sekota, Sahla	7,664,108.53	7,608,932.85	99%
Young Women's Christian Association in Ethiopia (YWCA Ethiopia)	Addis Ababa	2,266,632.50	2,158,509.78	95%
Ethiopian Scout Association (ESA)	Addis Ababa	2,699,069.00	2,321,593.28	86%
Ethiopian Scout Association	Addis Ababa	1,289,750.39	1,176,624.78	91%
Association	Addis Ababa	1,840,496.00	1,796,974.32	98%
Action for Development (AFD)	Addis Ababa	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	100%
REHABILITATION&DEV'T ORG /RADO/	Addis Ababa	1,678,468.78	1,678,468.78	100%
ROHI WEDDU PASTORAL W/DEV't REMAINING BUDGET	Afar	1,197,846.00	1,197,846.00	100%
Ethiopian Civil Society Organization Council (ECSOC)	Addis Ababa	3,225,991.30	3,225,991.30	100%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,145,842.21</b>	<b>62,387,672.35</b>	<b>97%</b>

## Chapter 10

### *Communication*

All our major implementations and engagements were communicated and documented. In addition to our regular communication activities like collection of Impact stories and documentation of local events, we were also able to successfully organize and participate in prestigious national events like the 3rd Civil Society Organizations' Exhibition and Launching of Climate Justice Campaign, National WEE Forum and international events like the 2nd Africa Business and Human Rights Conference held in Addis. These events got wide media coverage with the close follow-up of our Communication Unit. Moreover, different policy briefs, promotional materials like fliers, brochures, pagers, and newsletters were published and distributed to different stakeholders and partners.

We led the production of national and regional TV and radio spots on different thematic areas like Decent Work and preventing gender-based violence, and key advocacy on young people's engagement.

As social media platforms are among the communication spaces, we use to inform our audiences about what we do and the communities we work with, we have increased our social media reach from the previous year. The number of our Facebook page followers has surpassed 3,200 while our X page is followed by 40 organizations and individuals.

## Chapter 11

### ***AAE best practices /Lessons Learnt***

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) has effective program implementation. Enablers include strong leadership and organizational capacity, alignment with partners, global experience, adherence to adaptive strategies and core values, reputable community partners relationships, inclusivity, and capacity building on participatory and human rights-based approaches. AAE also benefits from collaboration opportunities, prioritization of women-led principles, climate resilience work, and advocacy efforts like climate justice. Despite these strengths, AAE faces limitations mainly budget constraints and, resource limitations due to a competitive funding environment and other external factors. The below are key lessons AAE would build on.

Empowering and Promoting Women's Leadership

Accountability and transparency in targeting and distribution of humanitarian assistance

Public Transparency Boards

Participation of right holders

Periodical PRRPs

# act!onaid

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