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**AAE CSP VI Booklet**

Action for Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication



# 1. Foreword

In 2024, the Global Strategy's Strategic Implementation Framework II (SIFII) will come to an end implying revision in 2024 and transition to SIF III for the period 2024 forth word, which in turn will inform Country program's operations.

Cognizant of the CSPV's context responsiveness and the Global SIFIII development not deviating so much from Systems Change in Economic Justice and Climate Justice and major attention to Social Movement building, AAE decided to extend the CSP V and transit to CSP VI with few changes.

The first context change resulted in repositioning of AAE in the areas of good governance, advocacy and campaign which implies the need to include governance as a standalone priority and integrated with other priorities. In effect, AAE adds Priority 2 aligned with the Global Priorities. The second context urged AAE to integrate youth programming as part of its priority under governance and civic participation while including programs on young people as part of its existing priorities cutting across all the four program priority areas. This will bring changes in how AAE ensures active participation and engagement of young people as critical agents of social change and current democratic processes in the country while creating safe spaces for youth to network and forge alliance at the LRP, national, regional, and global level for gender justice, good governance and poverty eradication. The last, coupled with the first two, induced AAE to concur spaces aligning to its focus areas and engage with a wide range of governmental sectors, INGOs and local CSOs towards empowering people, solidarity, campaign, and alternatives. This enabled AAE to pronounce its Campaign and Alternatives in addition to empowerment and solidarity.

In CSP VI, AAE will deepen its focus around its humanitarian program, youth engagement, conflict resolution and peace building, advancing technology, digital use, and Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus. As a result, minor rephrasing/rewording of program priorities and focus areas is made to ensure more clarity and better assimilation across priorities.

## 2. Our Identity

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

We connect our work from communities to national and international level by leading and actively engaging in policy agenda for greater contribution towards a just, equitable and sustainable life of communities through addressing injustice.

ActionAid Ethiopia is a member of ActionAid Federation that will be represented by its National Advisory Council and management that contribute to networked, unified and agile federation through fulfilling its multiple accountabilities as well as legacy.



## **3. Our Theory of Change**

Guided by feminist lens and human rights-based principles and approaches, we seek to shift power, through empowerment, solidarity, campaign, policy influencing and the generation of alternatives to ensure that Women, Girls and Young People can enjoy a life of dignity and freedom from poverty. We build strategic alliances with Men and Boys; Religious and Traditional institutions to fight Gender Injustice, bad governance and poverty in solidarity.



## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

*To achieve Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication, by working with Women and Girls, young people and people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations and supporters.*



# Our Values

**Mutual Respect**, requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

**Equity and Justice**, requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, class, age, HIV status, disability, location and religion.

**Integrity**, requiring us to be honest, transparent and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgements and communications with others.

**Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion** will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality

**Courage of Conviction**, requiring us to be creative and progressive, assertive and innovative - without fear of failure - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality

**Independence** from any religious or party-political affiliation

**Humility**, recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice

**Excellence**, we work with a sense of professionalism to maximize high quality standards and value for money.

**ActionAid Ethiopia** is committed to apply feminist lens and values in our work, which will guide us in interpreting and advancing our mission.



## 4. Program Approach

### 4.1 Human Right based approach

Our HRBA flows from our values, our feminist principles and our strategy. It builds on international human rights law but goes beyond a legal or technical approach to rights. We support people to analyze and confront power imbalances and we take 5 sides with people living in poverty and exclusion. This sets our HRBA apart from the approach many other agencies take, using rights-based language but failing to challenge abuses of power at local, national or international level.

### 4.2 The 3 Rs Framework – Rights, Redistribution and Resilience

**Rights** : For Women, Girls and Young People living in poverty and exclusion to fight for gender equality and poverty eradication it is important to recognize and act up on their potential individually and collectively and be 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 people's rights. It is important to recognize the multiple realities/identities women navigate in their lives to holistically realize their rights. It is central to realize Women, girls and their institutions socio economic empowerment to challenge negative social and harmful traditional norms and practices that fuel discrimination against women and girls.

**Redistribution** : People living in poverty, especially women 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. This entails developing appropriate policies, strategies and measures to enable Women actively lead their reproductive, productive and community roles.



**Resilience** : As humanitarian emergencies increase in country, people living in poverty and exclusion must have the resilience to withstand, recover from and transform systems that increase their vulnerability. Power must also be shifted to first responders, especially women's and Girl's organizations at the frontline of emergency response, with increased accountability to these local communities. People who are most impacted by crisis must be supported to tackle these 6 underlying drivers, including gender inequalities. Given the impact of climate change on rural communities and livelihoods, we will work to safeguard food sovereignty and to achieve ecological and climate justice.

### **4.3 Feminist Intersectional Analysis**

We will focus and deepen on embracing and employing feminist values, principles that promote respectful relationships, inclusive, equitable and just economies, non-violence and non-discrimination, deep democracy and freedom; and analysis (rights, intersectionality & power analysis) in all program works. By looking at patriarchy and gender as systems of power, we will unpack the visible, hidden, and invisible power that normalized power and resource imbalance from the household to the national level.

### **4.4. System Change, Movement Building and Rooted Campaigning**

AAE will consistently review the understanding of system change – what is wrong with the system at present (uniting against the common enemy of a neoliberal, colonial, extractive, and patriarchal system); what system we want to see; and how we can get there through a just transition that is feminist, anti-racist and decolonial. We will navigate and build up on our work with social movements, sharing experiences, challenges, and opportunities in different contexts and exploring the implications for ActionAid's internal systems and processes, including the urgent need to improve systems of support for frontline human rights defenders. We will deepen our work on system change for climate justice, system change for economic justice and public services, system change for women's rights and feminist alternatives, and humanitarian system change. We will deepen connections between these threads at local, national, and international levels. In line with the Marafa Declaration of ActionAid, ensuring deepening work on our feminist approaches and continue defending women's rights both internally and externally. We will also continue to expand our work on youth engagement through campaigning and Advocacy.





## 4.5. Nexus Approach

The Nexus Approach allows us to bridge the gap between Humanitarian Response, Development initiatives, Climate Justice, and Peace-Building efforts. By working across these interconnected sectors, we aim to build resilience, ensure that communities are better prepared for future crises, and address the root causes of vulnerabilities. This integrated approach will ensure that our interventions are not only reactive but proactive, helping communities transition from relief to recovery, and ultimately, to sustainable development.

This approach aligns with our commitment to holistic and transformative change, focusing on addressing both immediate needs and long-term structural challenges.

### Pillars of the Nexus Approach

- Humanitarian Response
- Development
- Climate Justice
- Peacebuilding





## 5. Program Priorities

**Priority 1: Transform Gender Justice and Women and Girls' Empowerment through the promotion of their rights.**

### Focus Area 1

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

### Focus Area 2

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



## Priority 2: Promote Good Governance and increased Civic Participation and engagement for the fulfillment of rights of citizens.

### Focus Area 1

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

### Focus Area 2

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

### Focus Area 3

Institutional Capacity Building for sustainable development and democratization process.





## **Priority 3: Strengthen Resilient Livelihoods and Promote the Right to Climate Justice.**

### **Focus Area 1**

Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA), agroecology and Livelihoods

### **Focus Area 2**

Promote Climate Justice

## **Priority 4: Drive transformative women and young people-led, and community-based emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and the right to protection.**

### **Focus Area 1**

Provide Life-Saving Emergency Response.

### **Focus Area 2**

Protection programming especially GBV, child protection, and general protection during Emergencies.

### **Focus Area 1**

Build on the resilience of affected communities in humanitarian crises, especially Women, Girls, and young people practicing humanitarian, development, and peace nexus.



## 6. Campaign agendas

### Climate Justice

AA links human rights and development to achieve a human-centered approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science, and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources

### GBV

Campaign to combat Gender based violence, harassment and harmful practices, advocating for policies and programs that enhance women's health, safety and security.

### Decent work

We advocate for all workers particularly women and marginalized groups, have access to fair, safe and dignified employment including violence free workplace, fair wages, secure jobs, worker's right and social protection.

### Unpaid Care work

Through its motto 'Making Care Visible in Ethiopia' resulting in lots of awareness and knowledge about the matter at communities and national level actors. . It is time to progress further to the reduction through promoting innovation and the redistribution of resources along with Gender Responsive Public Services and Budgeting advocacy.

## 7. Engagement with the Federation

ActionAid Ethiopia shares the vision of the federation on the new ways of working for networked, unified and agile federation. Among the different venues to demonstrate our commitment to the Federation our active participation in the International Spaces and Global Campaigns which serve as the major strategic relationships and learning and sharing platforms.

The Advisory Council of AAE will ensure our representation at the General Assembly and our multiple accountabilities.

AAE CD is elected Global Leadership Team (GLT) that is established in 2022 for the next 3 years to advance important federation processes and priorities that require shared and collective leadership in the coming years.

## 8. Resource mobilization and Management

In this strategic period AAE will envisage establishing a social enterprise by acquiring a building that serves as Hub for HRBA and Social movement by providing a center for conscientization. This will enable to generate income for program and structure investment that in long run will make the CP more financially viable and sustainable.

We will continue diversification, supporters'/donors' retention and ensure compliance and marketing through our visibility and communication mechanisms. AAE will continue allocating sufficient fundraising investment, setting in-country Donor Engagement Plan, and building donor relationship to tap country-wide and abroad donor funding opportunities (organizing immersions, inviting donors in big events, annual National PRRPs, field trips, etc).



## 9. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) approach for our country's strategic plan is designed to ensure that our interventions are effectively implemented, accurately tracked and continuously improved. It outlines how we will monitor and evaluate our activities, hold ourselves accountable to stakeholders, and foster a culture of learning. Additionally, it details our commitment to data quality and the data collection processes we will employ.



## 10. Digitalization and Innovation

AAE embraces innovations and digital technology: - To realize our ambition of Gender Justice, Good Governance and Poverty Eradication as well as to ensure our organizational effectiveness.

As the most effective and efficient channel in creating new alternatives, opportunities and enabling factors for social mobilization and attitude changes.

As an enabler to actively undertake digital transformation to drive our agenda relevant and appropriate to us.

As the potential to strengthen our engagement with local partners and people's organizations.

To enhance our programming approach, including M&E, Influencing and solidarity actions.

For fund raising to communicate and reach out to current and potential supporters, donors, and the broader public. AAE has modernized its sponsorship business which enhances its effectiveness and efficiency. by innovation, digitalizing our systems and processes. We will strengthen our social media presence and use of digital platforms for our communications and visibility works.

To strengthen solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion through providing information, influencing and awareness creations.

As it contributes to cost effectiveness, efficiency, and healthy environment by reducing carbon footprint and contribute to strengthening connectivity.





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