

## Conscientization Ignites Young People for Claiming and Advocating Climate Financing to Address Affected Communities

In late August 2024, an ActionAid's Ethiopia /AAE/ local partner named Young Women Christian Association/YW-CA/ organized a national level advocacy workshop on climate finance and accountability with the support of Strategic partnership Agreement /SPA II/ project. In this workshop, the participants were drawn from youth climate networks, activists and environment protection groups, young people who advocate climate issues at national and global levels, and representatives from ministerial government offices and CSOs. During the workshop, keynote speech was addressed from AAE about the key intervention areas relating to climate resilient sustainable agriculture and climate justice.



The climate finance has been allocated for adaptation, mitigation and for both actions across different sectors; agriculture, livestock, forestry, industry and other sectors. Mr Misganaw pinpointed the existing trend of Ethiopia in absorbing the global climate finance with the proportion of 0.1%. He also stated as the Ethiopia government intends to allocate 0.5 to 1% of the annual national budget for greening activities.

After the presentation, participants raised questions and then the presenter explained about the procedure of GCF for 30% of the grant to be allocated for women benefits though challenges in practical implementation. In the case of accreditation, there has been discussion to bring Development Bank of Ethiopia to be accredited for accessing climate finance which will promote private sector engagement particularly relating to green jobs creation. In addition, Mr Misganaw spoke about the importance of young people engagement to determine and enhance the effect of climate finance on future generations considering the intersectionality of youth and climate finance.

As part of the event, an expert from Ministry of Finance, CRGE Facility Programme Coordinator Mr Misganaw Eyassu presented a paper focusing on the impact of climate change in Ethiopia, the policy roadmap, governance structures and role of CRGE facility in climate finance. In the presentation, he emphasized about the source of climate finance for Ethiopia including the multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, Green Climate Fund/GCF/, Global Environment Facility/GEF/, Adaptation Fund and other sources. From the overview data of climate finance mobilization from 2011-2019, Ethiopia secured a total of USD 82 billion from the different sources including the 270 million USD from CRGE facility.



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Moreover, the panelists from MoPD, EPA as well as gender & climate consultant shared their experience about climate financing and their respective sectors actions to cope up with climate crisis. They also gave more explanations about engagement plan of sector offices, information provision, accountability mechanisms and necessity of young people to build their capacities in influencing authorities beside to participation in global spaces.

In a nutshell, the workshop ended up with identifying key issues for actions by different groups; consider climate finance as critical tool to tackling climate crises, promoting green jobs, ensure accountability, leveraging partnership and increase young people engagement with inclusive approach.



## GP Ethiopia Trainer Becomes a Youth Sounding Board Member of EU in Ethiopia

Bisrat Fikadu, a 28-year-old project coordinator, trainer, and climate change activist, shared that his journey as a Project Coordinator at INGO, European Union Youth Sounding Board member (YSB), and Green Deal Chairperson has been highly impacted by his engagement with Global Platform/GP/ Ethiopia. GP is one of the spaces in ActionAid to increase young people engagement. Bisrat first joined GP Ethiopia as a youth volunteer before taking up a leadership position in the local GP. Bisrat expresses his engagement with GP as a tool to transform himself and his peers around him. “GP has transformed me in terms of developing myself by giving me the necessary training to develop my skills, which aided me through various activities, and provided areas for improvement, priceless in value, and collaboration” as he said.



He then goes on to add that his success as a youth leader and career has been “profoundly shaped by my engagement with Global Platforms”.

Bisrat has had the opportunity to attend different capacity building training courses that have supported him in defying barriers to youth participation. “Thanks to the GP, I have had the privilege of participating in training programs to enhance my leadership, project management, activism, and policy analysis skills. All this training equipped me with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the most formidable challenges within my current engagement.”

These opportunities have helped Bisrat in making professional networking and fostered meaningful collaboration with his peers and experts across cultures and backgrounds. Relating to this, Bisrat states that building these networks and having the chance to engage in these activities have helped him “engage in a socially transformative impact towards the achievement of sustainable development and empowerment of young people through my involvement in GP.”

Having taken up the role of Chairperson Green Deal, Bisrat has been able to apply global insights and many of the best practices shared through GP in developing and executing initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and advocate for green policies. “Relationships built within this network have informed me about global issues and enriched my understanding of them”. Through the opportunity forwarded by the GP, Bisrat was able to apply and get selected for the Youth Sounding Board organized by the European Union in June 2024. “Looking ahead, I remain committed to further learning and contribution, and I could make use of all these experiences in service of positive change within my community and beyond.” GP has supported and empowered Bisrat to be an active member and youth among his peers striving towards inclusion and participation of young people in civic spaces.

## Inclusive tax justice; Young People Collective Action and Influencing Capacity Ease Burden for Young Woman with Disability

In the Semien Bench District of the Bench Sheko Zone in the Southwest Region of Ethiopia, the community faced a significant challenge when a new tax law was imposed. This law levied high taxes on landowners, including small landowners, businesspersons, and many residents were unable to afford the payments.

Among those affected community members, a young woman with disability and operating small commodities' shop business from Genija cluster Kebele affected with the levy of high tax. She has a limited income and asks to pay 1800 birr in taxes, which posed a significant burden given her circumstances. The intersectionality of young woman's situation, as a person with a disability, put her at a disadvantage compared to her peers.

In June 2024, one of the executive members of the local GP/Genja Youth Association/, who have participated and worked at the tax revenue office at the district level, recognized this issue as a problem. He has been selected as task force members in collection of taxes by representing young people once he has gained leadership and decision-making skills during his engagement in the local GP. Acknowledging that he could not help a young woman on his own, the young GP member discussed the matter with his peers in the local group. The GPs, who had been trained on active citizenship, recognized the unfairness of the situation. The youth of Genja took it upon themselves to advocate for young woman, understanding that the tax distribution system did not adequately account for those with disabilities or marginalized communities.

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Instead of simply collecting the taxes as mandated, the Genja local GP contacted the local bodies responsible for tax regulation and presented the young woman's case. Thanks to their efforts, young woman's situation improved significantly. The local authorities agreed to modify her tax obligation, decreasing it from 1800 birr to 200-birr, which Almaz was then able to pay. This example demonstrates the power of active citizenship and the ability of community members to advocate for those facing disproportionate challenges, even in the face of unfair policies.



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