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# Empowering the Young People

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AAE has been implementing programs in Ethiopia under both humanitarian and development contexts for more than 34 years. Young people, particularly young women, are the primary targets of the organization in terms of working with them, their organizations, and networks. The organization is implementing various projects to realize the achievement of its mission and intended objectives.

Connecting to this, the Strategic Partnership Agreement Project II (SPA II), with the support of ActionAid Denmark and funding by Denmark's Development Cooperation (Danida), has been implemented to engage young people particularly young women in **decision making, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian response** process and actions. It's being implemented (since 2022 and will end in 2025) in collaboration with

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local partners, youth groups/associations, and government stakeholders in four target locations:

- 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 project is to enable young people, especially **young women, and marginalized people, enjoy fundamental rights** through improved access to well-resourced programs and **public services** such as water, education, and health, and enjoy improved, sustainable **livelihoods, resilience** and **protection** including in climate disasters, fragile situations, and protracted crisis contexts. Whereas the specific objectives deal with ensuring young people to access for decision-making spaces, youth-led spaces, and platforms, build climate resilient and sustainable livelihoods and build **leadership** in humanitarian preparedness and response to emergencies and crises (Youth in Crises). For ensuring proper implementation, the project has utilized the approaches of **capacity building, localization** or using existing structures, **social movements, human-rights-based approach, multi-stakeholder approach, nexus of development, humanitarian & peace, and adapting programming.**



*Young people exercised democratic election during leader selection*

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## Key Achievements

Most of the activities were accomplished by providing capacity building for young people, and establishment of project structures and orienting the project concept for stakeholders. With the capacity building intervention, we were able to reach 1,408 young people (58% female) with the topics of **Leadership** and management, **Gender Responsive Public Service**, **Digital Literacy skills**, **Peace Building and Conflict Management**, **Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture**, and **Agro ecology**. In addition, spaces

have been created for youth particularly young women through the events of youth day, workshops, panel discussions and other spaces including the digital spaces. Besides that, online **campaigns** and **advocating** on the issues of peace, climate justice & environment protection, and violence prevention were organized through social media platforms with the participation of more than 31,362 young people. The participation of youth at **national issues** like policy process have enabled them to improve their influence for raising issues.

On the other hand, **the social accountability** committees at the district level have supported youth groups to have space and be able to influence local officials. At the local level, eleven **youth institutions were established** and started functioning with institutional set up including in agroecology centres. During the establishment process, the exercising of democratic election for leadership and executive committee selection was taken as good lesson to be replicable and practiced in their operations. As part of project and related interventions, **lifesaving humanitarian responses** were provided for war affected communities in three areas (Borena, Gunna and Sekota districts) in which a total of 11,145 people were provided with various support including multi-purpose cash, food items, dignity kit, and economic strengthening for survivors in addition to facilitation of psycho-social and health services.



*Youth group leadership and management training-Picture: Trainees exercising teamwork challenge*



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*Young people have got spaces to discuss and voice their concerns for decision makers and authorities*

**Young women became key actors** for humanitarian response through taking leadership and participating in targeting, provision and monitoring the process of multi-purpose cash support, dignity kit provision and responses for survivors of violence in collaboration with the community members and government respective offices.

**Duty bearers allocated lands for agroecology** practices and youth multipurpose functions with the **lobbying and influencing efforts of young people** which helped the youth to engage with agroecology centre works like seedling and environment protection.

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

## Find Us

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