

Women Watch Groups

Fighting GBV and HTPs



Lemlem (Center), Chairperson of Guna Women's Watch Group explains that the group has brought many gender-based violence perpetrators to justice and showed what women can do if organized and get supports.

Women and Girls in the country are subjected for ranges of systematic oppressions, different forms of violence & harmful traditional practices like rape, domestic violence, early and child marriage, abduction, polygamy, female genital mutilation, uvulectomy, abdominal massage during pregnancy, women exclusion during menstrual period from their homes, biting of wives practiced in and women unable to share any asset during divorce are some of the gender-based violence practiced in many parts of the country. This affects the realization of women and Girls right to live and lead a dignified life. ActionAid Ethiopia designed and implemented Women Watch Group model with the primary objective of reducing harmful traditional practices (HTPs) & violence against women and girls (VAWG) and challenging

patriarchy through the active engagement and leadership of women and girls themselves in Ethiopia. Through the Women Watch Group model AAE empowers women and Action for Gender Justice, Good Governance, and Poverty Eradication!girls to protect themselves, eliminate violence & harmful traditional practices, negative social attitudes & norms, & ensure equity and equality in collaboration with local justice system, police, and government structures.

Since the initiation of the Women Watch Groups model, 700 Women Watch Groups have been organized in 13 local rights programs at different parts of the country.

Moreover, WWGs have formed district level Anti-GBV/HTP forums which enable them to discuss issues at district level with key stakeholders like District administrator, Police, Justice, and court personals and to organizes campaigning events during international days of Women (March 8), Zero Tolerance to FGM day (Feb 6), and 16 days of activism to mobilize women, girls, men, boys and religious/cultural leader commitment around combating GBV.

Subsequently, incidences of different harmful traditional practices such as rape, abduction and other forms of violence and discrimination have reduced significantly over time. Circumcision arranged early marriage etc. have now totally been banned by communities that AAE works with. Moreover, women's participation in the social, economic, and political life of the community has shown significant improvement.



A Woman entering WWG office built by ActionAid Ethiopia in Guna to give free legal and psychosocial support service to survivors of violence against women



Women's Watch Group Leaders in Tigray in a meeting.

Find Us

ActionAid Ethiopia

Lemikura Sub-city,
Kebele 13, House Number 3044

✉ 1261, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



ethiopia.actionaid.org



[@ActionAidE](https://twitter.com/ActionAidE)



[@ActionAid Ethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidEthiopia)



Comms.Ethiopia@actionaid.org