

*UN WOMEN ETHIOPIA CHANGING THE LIVES
OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS*

UN Women Ethiopia—Best Practices in 2015



Winning photo of the Fund for Gender Equality Photo Competition by UN Women Partner
Photo Credit: UEWCA, SIIQEE,2014

Foreword

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

As we start re-energized in the year of 2016, UN Women Ethiopia took some time to reflect on some milestones and successes achieved in 2015.

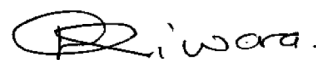
2015 saw the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the finalization of the 2nd Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII) as well as the new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) for Ethiopia. All these had a strong commitment on gender equality and women's empowerment – thanks to the hard work by all of us

At the Africa Union level, the dedication of the year as the “Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063” was historic. Africa and indeed the whole world came together to review progress achieved 20 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. From this review we heard loud and clear calls from the women's movement that it is high time to move from ‘declarations to deliverables’. As the year drew to a close, the First Africa Girls' summit was held in Lusaka, Zambia, and again the call to end child marriage in Africa by 2030 was loud and clear. Many more such high level events took place in the year.

In this issue UN Women shares a few highlights of the AU Year of Women (page 3). We succeeded in firmly placing gender equality and women's empowerment at the center of the development discourse. We further amplified the voices of women by providing various platforms to share success stories and changing the narrative of Africa from a women's perspective through a documentary series on the Theme of the year. Our coordination mandate was put to practice at all levels from global, regional, national, UN, civil society, and development partners as demonstrated in our Best Practice on Coordination (page 4).

We have provided technical expertise to the Government of Ethiopia by integrating a module on Violence against Women in the upcoming Ethiopia Demographic Survey (EDHS) (Page 2). This work is strategic and not only ensures collection and use of sex-disaggregated data but in demonstrating the high level policy support to the Government as it moves to becoming a Middle Income Country. Last but not least we share a successful strategy of using Community Conversations to share personal experiences of migrant women with a view to reduce illegal migration from Ethiopia and to protect women from risks involved in migration (page 7).

I thank all of you for ‘Walking the Talk’ with us and being loyal partners and our allies in trying to make the world more gender equal and just for all. We do look forward to working with you in the future and to take policy commitments from paper to action!



Letty Chiwara

UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, AUC and UNECA.



Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, the AUC and UNECA, Photo Credit; UN Women/ Abraham Gebremeskel

We Need to Know What's Going On

VAW Module and Indicators in the Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey



Capacity Building Training at the Adama Safe House, Photo Credit; UN Women/ Paula Mata

Each year several studies on Violence against Women (VAW) are carried out in Ethiopia. However, many of them represent only fragmented information and are uneven in their findings and explanations on VAW. Therefore, the need for comprehensive and consolidated data on VAW that shows trends and can inform programming and policy interventions has been immense. This became even more apparent when a need to generate up-to-date, reliable and concrete data on VAW occurred at the concluding stage of the First Growth and Transformation Plan and in order to include specific and measurable targets on VAW in the Second Growth and Transformation Plan and Sectoral plans. Hence, after yearlong consultations and negotiations facilitated by UN Women together with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) has for the first time in the history of Ethiopia VAW included VAW as a module in the

2016 Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey. The VAW module which is very comprehensive, includes collection of information on three forms of violence such as psychological, physical and sexual violence. The inclusion of VAW indicators in the EDHS is a great success as it implies that there will be automatic generation of data on these indicators every five years, which are credible and internationally comparable and thereby providing the necessary information and evidence for programming, policy interventions and to monitor progress in the area.

Inclusion of any new module and indicators in the EDHS has time and cost implication and is a difficult and time consuming process which requires expertise, active involvement and relentless lobbying. UN Women was able to achieve this by being part of the Technical Working Group at the Central Statistics Agency, taking part in the weekly meetings, providing existing international standards and indicators on VAW and guidelines for producing statistics on VAW and ensuring that all ethical considerations and fundamental principles are taken into account.

UN Women was also simultaneously supporting the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to prepare for the standalone survey on VAW, by bringing on-board a well renowned researcher Professor Yemane Berhane to facilitate a preparatory workshop on VAW. The preparatory workshop resulted in consensus on the scope, methodology and indicators to be used for VAW survey based on international standards which served as lobbying tool during the discussion with colleagues at the CSA for the EDHS 2016. In addition, since all stakeholders had a common understanding of the issue as a result of the workshop, particularly the Ministry of Women and Children affairs, it also allowed for the Ministry to push for the inclusion of VAW indicators at the highest level. The support provided by UN Women to MoWCA has also resulted in the inclusion of EVAWG as a priority area in the Second Growth and Transformational Plan. The Ministry has for the first time included indicators on the reduction of the different forms of violence in its five year sectoral plan (2016-2020). The United National Development Assistance Framework (2016-2020) Pillar 5 on Equality and Empowerment is fully dedicated to EVAWG in the country and includes indicators on the reduction of different forms of violence. All these results speak to the continuous robust support provided by UN Women to the Government of Ethiopia and other actors in prioritizing EVAWG in the country and the importance given to generating data and evidence to monitor progress in the area.

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The African Union Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063



2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and
Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063

The UN Women Ethiopia Liaison Unit has the mandate to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) throughout the African Union (AU) and its various organs, the United Nations and regional women's rights networks. This year, the mandate become particularly significant as the AU took the landmark decision to designate 2015 the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063." The occasion provided the opportunity for to highlight the need for greater action by all stakeholders in implementing GEWE commitments on the continent. The key results are highlighted as follows:

Walk the Talk Newsletter – UN Women, together with the AUC, developed two special edition publications showcasing impact stories from across the African region on women's empowerment. IN line with the 6 priority areas of the Year of Women, the stories highlight women as agents of change and practices that work to bring about change in the lives of women and men. The newsletters have been disseminated at the AU summits and online, offering enhanced visibility to Africa-wide initiatives by the AUC, UN Agencies and NGOs, among others, that have made a concrete improvement to women's lives—sharing evidence-based and scalable practices that can inform programming, policy and advocacy activities of stakeholders across the continent.

Financing for Development Conference – UN Women supported technical support at the *AU Conference of Ministers of the Economy and Finance*, as well as via the Africa Group of Negotiators to ensure that there was a strong reflection of GEWE priorities in the outcome document. UN Women also subsequently worked to ensure that messaging on financing for gender equality was consistent and clearly communicated, for example through the publication of an advocacy brochure, as well as hosting of a high-level Side Event at the Margins of the FfD conference.

African Union Summits - UN Women provided strategic technical contributions to the AU Summits, especially in the Gender Pre-Summits during the AU Year of Women. As part of this and in response to loud calls from Civil Society Organizations to move from 'deliverables to actions' UN Women committed to document best practices that can facilitate scale up and duplication and showcase what works for gender equality and women's empowerment. Therefore, UN Women produced the documentary "African Women Changing the Narrative– Our Story" which highlights stories of change and provides a platform for women to tell their own story. The documentary will be launched at the beginning of 2016

Girls' Summit - UN Women was one of the key partners to the African Union Commission in the organization of the First Africa Girls' Summit (AGS). Besides its contribution to the technical preparations UN Women also supported a Compendium of Laws on Ending Child Marriage which will function as a key document and reference framework to track progress in the upcoming years. UN Women also led the organization of a Movie Night at the AGS in line with the programme "African Women Changing the Narrative– Our Story" which shows stories of change and women as key to development and change.

Advocacy around the 16th RCM Session on Women's Empowerment and Development- UN Women took on a leadership role in providing substantive technical inputs to the UN System planning and coordination of the 16th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). As a result, the subsequent key recommendations provide concrete commitments among regional stakeholders to support women's economic empowerment initiatives.

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Taking the Lead to Coordinate

UN Women's Coordination Role to Promote Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Ethiopia



Since the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) in 2010, UN Women in Ethiopia has taken on a critical role to lead, coordinate and promote accountability of the UN System for its work on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). It does this within its mandate to contribute towards a UN System that will be **'fit for purpose'** to deliver results for GEWE effectively and to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other globally, regionally and national agreed norms and goals.

UN Women leads on this while operating in a complex environment with a country presence in Ethiopia as well as a liaison function to the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Ethiopia comprises 9 regional states and 2 city administrations and has recently adopted its Second Growth and Transformative Plan (GTP II) which is one of the main guiding document for UN Women's interventions in the country. In addition, the UN System has developed its new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) which will be implemented from 2016 to 2020 and is closely linked to the GTP II. In Ethiopia the UN works mostly with the Government of Ethiopia as implementing partner while Civil Society takes on the role as service provider. Within these collaborations and partnerships, UN Women provides important linkages to regional and international processes, promoting the voices of Ethiopia, especially Ethiopian women at various levels through its participation in regional level coordination mechanisms such as the UN Liaison Team.

UN Women through its coordination leadership on GEWE has achieved several results at the level of working with the Government of Ethiopia and partners. Amongst others these include:

- Lead on Joint Programme on GEWE which was developed by the UNCT and emphasizes on four interconnected and complementary outcomes;
 - Women have increased income for improved livelihoods,
 - Women and girls have increased opportunities for education, leadership and decision making, Federal and Local level government institutions have strengthened their capacity to implement national and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment,
 - Federal and local level institutions and communities have enhanced their capacity to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

The first phase of the JPGWE was concluded with a final evaluation which informed the development of the JPGWE phase II which will come to an end in June 2016. The Technical working group under the leadership of MoWCA and UN Women is currently documenting lessons learned, best practices, challenges and opportunities to be shared widely and also to start discussion on the fate of the JPGWE, whether to have a next generation of JPGWE or change the approach and modality of work.

- UN Women has firmly placed in the Centre of any analysis, coordination and reporting on GEWE in Ethiopia;
- Annual work plan and tracking and monitoring tools for GEWE UN Women jointly developed with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- Technical engagement in development of the GTP II through the Ministry of Women and Children which resulted in a standalone pillar on gender equality and empowerment of women and Youth. Gender issues have been mainstreamed in the other 7 pillars of the GTP II due to the concerted effort of Gov't, UN agencies and members of DGGE working on gender equality and the empowerment of women under the leadership of UN Women and MoWCA.

- Government supported in development of improved planning and monitoring in different sectors and bureaus of government in regards to GEWE. Though all these are remarkable achievements, there is still clear gaps between the laws and their actual implementation and translation into concrete results that contributed to changing the status quo. It was with this background that, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) with support with UN Women developed a **'Gender Leveling Tool'** to assess how government is mainstreaming gender/empowerment of women (policies, resources and implementation) in different sectors and regional level bureaus . For instance the gender performance levelling tool was applied to assess the performance of 8 sectors in Ethiopia (Agriculture, Water/Energy, Urban Development/Construction, Health, Small and Medium Enterprises, Labor/Social Affairs and Justice) recently. The sectors were identified by the Government of Ethiopia as priority sectors with accompanying resources and attention, with the goal of eliminating poverty in Ethiopia on its way to become a Middle Income Country by 2025. The 'Gender Levelling Tool' was developed by experts from government, UN agencies and development partners, with leadership of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UN Women under the Joint Programme on GEWE.



United Nations in Ethiopia Oranging the Neighbourhood, including the UNECA Compound; Photo Credit: UN Women/ Paula Mata

- Effective advocacy that resulted in GEWE now being one of the priority areas of government with the allocation of resources (HR, Material, Finance, IT).

UN Women builds its success on strong collaborations with partners, especially development partners. As part of this UN Women is convener and secretariat of the Donor Group on Gender Equality (DGGE) and represents the UNCT in the Development Assistance Group (DAG). This linkage allow UN Women to make critical connections between the DAG and the DGGE through the integration of gender into work plans and support to technical aspects. Results achieved in the coordination of development partner's work on GEWE include:

- High-level technical discussions on GEWE prioritized
- Good practices shared for information sharing and replication
- Joint initiatives and priorities (i.e. assessment of UNSCR 1325 in Ethiopia and the 'Oranging Addis Ababa' activities during 16 Days of Activism);
- Technical working groups established (i.e. for review and guidance such as the review group for the UN Women Assessment of the Capacity of National Gender Machinery).

UN Women also leads the Coordination of GEWE within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). This includes that UN Women chairs the Inter- Agency Programme Team and the Operations Management Team and is the Secretariat of the UN Gender Theme Group.

UN Women results achieved through its lead on GEWE within the UNCT include:

- Representation of UNCT in the development of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme with the 3 Rome based agencies (IFAD, WFP and FAO)
- Coordination of the engagement with the development of UN Joint Programme on Financial Inclusion with IFAD
- Establishment of the UN Gender Theme Group;
- Coordination of the development of pillar on inequality focusing primarily on structural gender inequalities within UNDAF while also mainstreaming gender within all other 4 pillars;
- Lead on UNCT capacity building on GEWE through Gender Scorecard

UN Women was also able to achieve several results as Chair of the OMT.

Given that UN Women in Ethiopia has a dual role, of country office and liaison to the AUC and UNECA, the office was able to mainstream gender and prioritize GEWE in the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Liaison Team (UNLT). Results of this include a UNLT joint publication that focuses on women's empowerment as part of the AU Year of Women and UN Women's visibility through the RCM quarterly bulleting which showcases UN Women's role at the regional level.

At the level of working with Civil Society Organization's UN Women coordinates this aspect through its UN Women Advisory Group (UN Women-AG). Main achievements of the UN Women AG has been sharing of good practices as well as their engagement in critical global processes.

Furthermore, UN Women has been instrumental behind the development of an accountability tool called performance levelling tool, which is being applied to assess the performance of sectors on gender equality and women's empowerment. The rationale for the development of the performance levelling tool was to assess how government is mainstreaming gender/empowerment of women (policies, resources and implementation). The tool was applied to assess the performance of 8 pro poor sectors in Ethiopia (Agriculture, Water/Energy, Urban Development/Construction, Health, Small and Medium Enterprises, Labor/Social Affairs and Justice) to ensure that concrete actions are taking place to change the status quo, beyond the rhetoric.

The sectors were identified by the Government of Ethiopia as priority sectors with accompanying resources and attention, with the goal of eliminating poverty in Ethiopia on its way to become a Middle Income Country by 2025. The 'Gender Levelling Tool' was developed by experts from government, UN agencies and development partners, with leadership of Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs and UN Women under the Joint Programme on GEWE.

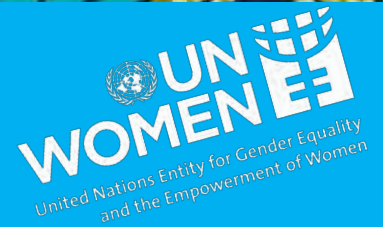
As a way of institutionalizing the 'Gender Leveling Tool', the Ministry of Women will be presenting the Tool to the Prime Minister's office for approval and adopted as an executive accountability tool for the Government of Ethiopia and in particular for the tracking of GEWE within the Growth and Transformation Plan II (2016 – 2020). In the GTP II period the tool will be applied to assess the performance of other sector 8 sectors which will be followed by tailored technical support to those which are not performing well on GEEW. (See the rating /100 points and the criteria used for grading below)

<p>Level – 3 (Gender Responsive)</p> <p>National and International commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women implemented and institutionalized , Apply the twin track approach systematically (>75 points/100)</p>	<p>Level – 2 (Gender Sensitive)</p> <p>Track record on achievements on GEWE Effort to mainstreaming gender in policy, programme and project level (46-75/100 points)</p>
<p>Level – 0 (Gender Blind)</p> <p>No effort towards ensuring GEWE and no initiative to mainstream gender at any level (< 10/100 points)</p>	<p>Level – 1 (Gender Aware)</p> <p>Some initiatives contributing to GEWE (at policy, and programme level) (10 - 45 /100 points)</p>

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Let's Talk About It—

Community Conversations on Migration



Community conversations (CCs) have proven a successful tool for awareness raising on irregular migration in Ethiopia. The CC that are organized by UN Women are a way to discuss and learn about the benefits of legal migration and the risks involved in illegal migration. To date, due to those CC changes in attitudes and practices of the communities in Amhara and Addis Ababa have born fruit.

In Amhara, to date more than 25,367 individuals - 15,961 men and 9,406 women - have participated in the community conversation, representing the elderly, youth, community based organizations, religious leaders and the police, as well as returnee migrant domestic workers. In addition ,18,672 individuals of which the majority are women have been trained in Addis Ababa. The community conversation are taking place every fifteen days for six months to discuss how to prevent irregular migration and what are the major causes for the phenomenon. The returnees are also invited to take part in order to share their experience during their journey and while returning home.

"There is this girl who used to live in our area she is a coble stone worker and makes good money out of it and she wanted to use all the money she had saved to migrate to another country. But I managed to convince her and told her to use the money she has to involve in micro enterprises and change her life. Now she managed to open a Bakery house and she is successful," says one of the participants at the Community Conversation Forum.

As result of the community conversation and awareness raising efforts undertaken both in Amhara and Addis Ababa, community members and CC facilitators have started working on prevention of migration in general and irregular migration as reported by implementing partners (IPs). Parallel to the community mobilization and facilitation of CC, the CC facilitators in coordination with the communities and the police are trying to hamper the brokers who influence and brainwash the people.

According to the facilitators, the major work in Bahar Dar is to prevent the brokers from facilitating the irregular way of migration in the area, because Bahar Dar is the place to transit for irregular migration; people come from every direction and pass through Bahar Dar to migrate out of Ethiopia. One of the participants testified that after he started to participate in the community conversation, he had stopped one girl from migrating to the Middle East in an irregular way.



UN Women staff interviewing CC facilitators, June 2015, Photo Credits by UN Women/ Paula Mata

Most of the time it is not the issue of money that makes the youths to migrate to other countries. But it is a perception of working aboard that is driving most of the migrants. Both the federal and regional governments have shown a great ownership to the CC program and want to replicate it to other unreached areas as pointed out by Ato Hailmariam Reda, member of house of federation Bahir Dar. He emphasized the challenge of migration and the importance of continuing the Community Conversation in the future in order to reduce irregular migration in a sustainable manner.

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Men Stepping Up for Gender Equality

HeForShe Launched in Ethiopia

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia officially launched the HeForShe Movement on 28 December 2015 under the leadership of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and in close collaboration and partnership with the UN Women Ethiopia Office and the UN Gender Theme Group. The colorful event was attended by Senior Government Officials, Diplomats, the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team Heads of Agencies, and Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations, Representatives from the Private Sector, Representatives from Universities and the Academia, Religious and Community Leaders and the Media.

The launch of the HeForShe Campaign aims at enhancing political commitments by the Government of Ethiopia and other sectors to engage men and boys to promote gender equality in the country. In doing so, the launch embarked on identifying HeForShe champions that are influential and can bring about change to promote gender equality and women's empowerment within their institutions and communities. As champions for the HeForShe Campaign UN Women Ethiopia was able to bring on board high level officials, starting from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn to Dr. Adamsu Tsegaye, President of Addis Ababa University to the private sector with the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Mr. Tewelde Gebremariam joining the Campaign as a Champion. Overall, the list of Champions is comprised of high level men from different spheres of life including Ministers, CEOs, University presidents, community and religious leaders as well as athletes. His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn officially launched the HeForShe in a very passionate and moving video message calling Ethiopian men and boys to see women's issue as their issue, to stand up for gender equality and shield and protect women from violence.



Mr. Haile Gebreselassie becoming a HeForShe Champion;
Photo Credit: UN Women



Artists supporting the HeForShe Campaign, Photo Credit: UN Women

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Women and Children Affairs, H.E Mme Zenebu Tadesse, the State Minister, H.E Mme. Alemitu Oumt opened the launch with a clear and strong message encompassing the importance boys and men bring towards ensuring gender equality. The HeForShe launch leaned towards a family gathering ambiance, and the essence of family units resonated through the Prime Minister's address which has been disseminated online on social media for public viewing. Artists were also moved by the HeForShe call and contributed in the form of performances, their time and talent to the call to join.

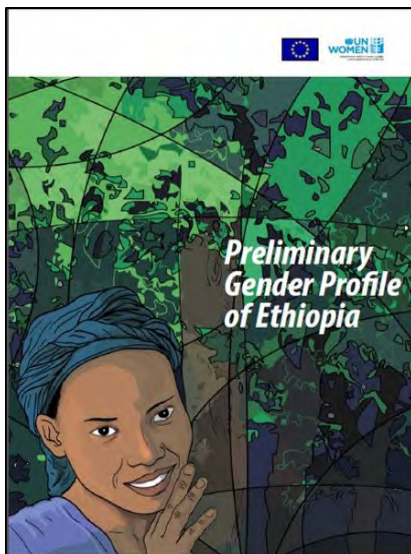
Ms. Letty Chiwara, the UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, the AUC and UNECA introduced the HeForShe campaign and emphasized that the launch was only the beginning of a social movement which will change the landscape of gender equality in Ethiopia. She also pledged for enhanced collaborations through the HeForShe movement stressing that UN Women Ethiopia will work together with the Government and the private sector, as well as religious councils and the youth to bring men and boys to the table. UN Women Ethiopia forged an important partnership with the private sector and media houses, who covered the event extensively on the news, radio shows and other channels; due to the pre and post media coverage, the launch of campaign also resulted in raising awareness amongst the public on the importance of involving men and boys to achieve gender equality and the numbers of men sign up on the web has gone up.

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UN Women Knowledge Products 2015

Getting the Message out There

PUBLICATIONS



The Preliminary Gender Profile

In order to provide up to date information on gender equality in Ethiopia, UN Women in 2014 collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and with financial support from the European Commission developed the Preliminary Gender Profile. The Preliminary Gender Profile provides much needed gender specific data in the context of Ethiopia. It aims at informing gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting as well as contributing to enhanced accountability by all actors. In addition it is assumed that the findings will motivate policy makers and development partners to increase targeted invest in gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Preliminary Gender Profile is an initial step to provide data and analysis about gender equality in key areas such as institutional and policy coordination mechanisms, women's participation in politics and decision-making, education, healthcare, and both paid and unpaid economic activities. The Preliminary Gender Profile outlines progress made as well as remaining challenges for the promotion of gender equality. It is intended to indicate emerging trends for gender work, especially around the reduction of poverty, promotion of women's rights

and freedom from violence, and strengthening national institutions to respond to gender equality and empowerment of women. The Preliminary Gender Profile will serve as a basis for the development of comprehensive Gender Survey to be undertaken between 2016 and 2020.

Gender Mainstreaming in Maternal Death Surveillance and Response Systems - Report

UN Women, in partnership with the AUC, commissioned a report to explore gender inequality related factors that contribute to maternal deaths and propose actionable ways MDSR systems can be improved to account for and address these factors in AU member states.

With the aim to improve the reproductive health of women across Africa, UN Women partners with the AUC on the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). Specifically, UN Women supports the strengthening of maternal death surveillance and response (MDSR) implementation in the continent, a best practice promoted through AU declarations to better account for deaths and ensure actions to prevent more deaths from similar causes. Though it is widely acknowledged that sociocultural factors can put women at serious maternal health risk, assessments of MDSR implementation indicate that maternal death review processes in Africa predominantly track and respond to direct medical causes of death and review gaps at health facilities. Deaths that occur outside the health system and critical underlying sociocultural factors contributing to maternal deaths, including gender inequality, are less frequently tracked and systematically investigated. This means many MDSR systems are missing key information to tackle the root causes of maternal mortality.



Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in the Humanitarian Settings in Ethiopia – Policy Brief

UN Women Ethiopia Office is co-leading the Donor Group on Gender Equality (DGGE), a donor coordination group on gender issues. The DGGE seeks to contribute to the strengthening of gender issues into Ethiopian policies and strategies, within the framework of the Development Assistance Group (DAG). Policy dialogues on key issues for gender equality and women's empowerment were identified as priority activities in the DGGE 2015 work plan and in the UN Women Ethiopia Office Annual Work Plan 2015. Within this framework and given the fact that 2015 is the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Secretary General Resolution 1325, the first United Nations resolution on women, peace and security, the DGGE and UN Women addressed this issue in the specific context of Ethiopia. Accordingly, UN Women with the financial contribution of the Austria Development Cooperation, has undertaken an assessment on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the humanitarian settings in Ethiopia, targeting in particular the refugee camps in Shire and Gambella. The assessment had the objective to review and assess the situation of women and girls in the national humanitarian context using the framework of UNSCR 1325. In addition it looked into possible actions to strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Ethiopia.



Walk the Talk: Special Edition during the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.

UN Women in collaboration with the African Union Commission develops the bi-annual publication entitled "Walk the Talk". "Walk the Talk" is the joint bi-annual AUC-UN Women newsletter, created in 2010, with the aim to support a stronger and visible AU leadership role in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The newsletter aims to increase awareness of the AU's work on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through its articles, briefs, good practices and interviews on AU policies, decisions or planned programme initiatives on GEWE.

During the AU Year of Women, UN Women and the AUC Gender Directorate have committed to publishing two special editions of the newsletter featuring stories of impact and change towards women's empowerment by showcasing good practices and lessons learned that have been realized in AU Member States. The First Special Edition for 2015 was compiled, published and disseminated ahead of the 25th AU Summit held in June in Johannesburg and highlights success stories within the 6 priority areas of the Year of Women.

STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS

National Women Machineries Assessment

Among the key actors for the promotion of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), a backbone for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), are the gender and women machineries. They play a critical role for social mobilization and to monitor and to advocate for the inclusion of gender in each sector. Furthermore, they are key in the development and implementation of structures and policies for the promotion of GEWE at all levels.

In order to build the capacity of the national women machineries and support them to execute their roles as mandated organ for achieving gender equality commitments at all level and across all the sectors, a National Women Machineries Assessment has been carried out in Ethiopia in May 2015. The assessment identifies the key capacities and areas of strengthening while it as the same time identifies a set of core capacity issues required for effective execution of mandates, powers and functions for the women machinery.

In-depth Study on the Migration Trend and Nature of Women MDWs Conducted and Dialogue Initiated Between Key Stakeholders on Migration Issues

In partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), UN Women implements the project 'Development of a Tripartite Framework for the Support and Protection of Ethiopian Women Migrant Domestic Workers to the GCC states, Lebanon and Sudan'. Within this framework UN Women in 2014 commissioned a comprehensive study on the nature, magnitude and trend of migration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers from Ethiopia to GCC States, Lebanon and Sudan with the aim to contribute to informed policy decisions and actions. The findings of the study are attracting the attention of development actors and the government to take actions and address special need of women (female migrant domestic workers) at various levels.

Edible Oil Value Chain Gender Analysis: Where are Women in Edible Oil Value Chain?

Lack of reliable data on the edible oil value chain for planning of relevant intervention has been one of the challenges that the sector has been facing in Ethiopia. To strengthen gender responsive planning in this field, UN Women commissioned a study entitled "Edible Oil Value Chain Gender Analysis". The purpose of the study was to understand the context, to identify key constraints and opportunities for women to engage in and benefit from the edible oil value chain. Among the findings was that there are very few women involved in edible oil processing where women represent only 5-10% oil millers in the country. Nevertheless, irrespective of all the constraints, engaging in edible oil value chain especially processing and marketing found to be a profitable business for women. Based on the findings, UN Women embarked gender mainstreaming in edible oil value chain. It has also managed to influence the policy environment by drawing the attention of stakeholders including the government and development partners working on the area to reconsider their approach and strategize mainstreaming of gender in their interventions across the edible oil value chain. Moreover, to promote informed policy decisions, a policy brief is being developed based on the finding of this study and planned to be shared with higher level government offices and concerned stakeholder.

National Assessment on the Availability, Accessibility, Quality and Demand of Rehabilitative and Reintegration of Services to Women and Girls Survivors of Violence (2015)

UN Women has commissioned a national assessment on the "Availability, accessibility, quality and demand of rehabilitative and reintegration services (shelters) to women and girl survivors of violence" with the support of Irish Aid. The study aimed at mapping the existing rehabilitation and reintegration service centres that provide services to women and girls survivors of violence. The assessment, being the first of its kind, was conducted in all the nine regional states of Ethiopia including Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa city administrations. It examined the availability and accessibility of services centres; assessed their effectiveness and efficiency; and studied the demand for services, gaps in service provision and current barriers to ensuring survivors' fundamental right to access to services. The assessment is an essential step in order to enhance the response to violence against women and girls as it identified places and regions where there is greater demand for comprehensive services for women and girls survivors of violence. The study has provided a sets of recommendations to be adopted by all relevant actors and proposed a model on comprehensive service provision that should be adopted by service providers.

OTHER

African Women Changing the Narrative—Our Story (Documentary)

As part of its knowledge products and outreach UN Women Ethiopia in 2015 produced the documentary entitled "African Women Changing the Narrative—Our Story" which was possible through the generous support by the Austrian Development Agency. The documentary showcases stories of success within the six priority areas of the AU Year of Women and contributes to a shift of the narrative to present women as agents of change, innovators and key in development and thus in achieving Africa's Agenda 2063.





For more information please send us an email to

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Produced by: Monika Bihlmaier

Edited by: Letty Chiwara