



## ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

2024 Quarter 2 Newsletter



### Message From The Representative



I am pleased to bring our second quarter newsletter highlighting the activities from April-June 2024. UN Women Ethiopia has undertaken various activities during the quarter in collaboration with its partners. Among the notable activities is the launching of its Women Economic Empowerment Strategy. The strategy encapsulates UN Women's vision of empowering women to thrive and economies to prosper. It aims to dismantle the systemic barriers that prevent women from fully participating in the economy.

Another important work done during the quarter is continuation of our effort to ensure participation of Civil Society organizations in the transitional justice processes. To this end, a two-day national workshop on creating space for the civil society organizations to participate in the implementation process of transitional justice policy in Ethiopia was held from 20 to 21 June 2024. The workshop targets women leaders from non-governmental and civil society

organizations and representatives of grassroots community groups from various regions of the country aimed to assess gender sensitivity of the Transitional Justice (TJ) Policy recently adopted by Ethiopia's Council of Ministers.

Capacity building trainings organized by UN Women's project "Making Migration Safe for Women", that aims to ensure migration is safe for women migrating from, into, through and back to Ethiopia in response to the challenges faced by migrant women returnees in Ethiopia, are also notable activities during the quarter. "Capacity building on Prevention and Response of GBV against Migrant Women" was provided 22nd- 24th of May 2024 and "Capacity building on Gender-Responsive Reintegration Service to Migrant Women Returnees" was undertaken 29th to 31st May 2024.

More information on these activities as well as other impact stories and links to publications can be found in the newsletter.

Happy reading!

Cecile Mukarubuga, Country Representative, UN Women Ethiopia

## News and Updates

### **UN Women supports Civil Society Organizations' engagement in transitional justice policy**

The two-day national workshop on creating space for the civil society organizations to participate in the implementation process of transitional justice policy in Ethiopia was held from 20 to 21 June 2024 in Bishoftu town, Ethiopia. The workshop targeting women leaders from non-governmental and civil society organizations and representatives of grassroots community groups from various regions of the country aimed to assess gender sensitivity of the Transitional Justice (TJ) Policy recently adopted by Ethiopia's Council of Ministers, to identify opportunities, gaps, and to collectively strategize and plan actions to ensure gender sensitivity and women's participation during the upcoming implementation phases of the Transitional Justice Policy realized.





*Participants of the two-day workshop.(Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)*

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## Launching of Women Economic Empowerment Strategy in Ethiopia

The economic involvement of women, encompassing both paid and unpaid work, plays a significant role in sustainable development and is crucial for realizing the 2030 Agenda. Women are substantial contributors to the economy, both directly and indirectly, fostering economic growth and development. However, many women face the harsh reality of resistance against their rights and progress towards gender equality, further exacerbated by interconnected crises such as climate change and conflict.

Economic empowerment is not just important for women, it also acts as a catalyst, enhancing their decision-making capabilities and resilience. In 2024, UN Women launched the Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy. This strategy encapsulates UN Women's vision of empowering women to thrive and economies to prosper. It aims to dismantle the systemic barriers that prevent women from fully participating in the economy. Recognizing the interconnectedness of gender equality and sustainable development, the strategy emphasizes the importance of integrating women's economic empowerment into development initiatives across sectors.



*Participants of the launching event. Photo: UN Women/Tensae Yemane*

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## Engaging CSOs in Developing Ethiopia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

Peace and security represent one of the key thematic areas of UN Women's mandate. Based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and nine subsequently adopted resolutions, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, recognizes the gendered nature of conflict and peacebuilding. Accordingly, one of the goals of the WPS Agenda is to promote gender equality and strengthen the participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, peace processes, peace operations and peacebuilding through effective partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders.

To develop comprehensive mechanism to respond to Peace and Security needs of Women in the country, Ethiopia has started the preparation of Nation Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. To make the process of development and implementation of the NAP inclusive, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs supported by UN Women in Ethiopia, is organizing series of consultations with Federal Ministries, CSOs, communities at grassroots level around the country to collect inputs to develop NAP on Women, Peace and Security in Ethiopia.



*Participants of the consultation. Photo: UN Women/Tensae Yemane*

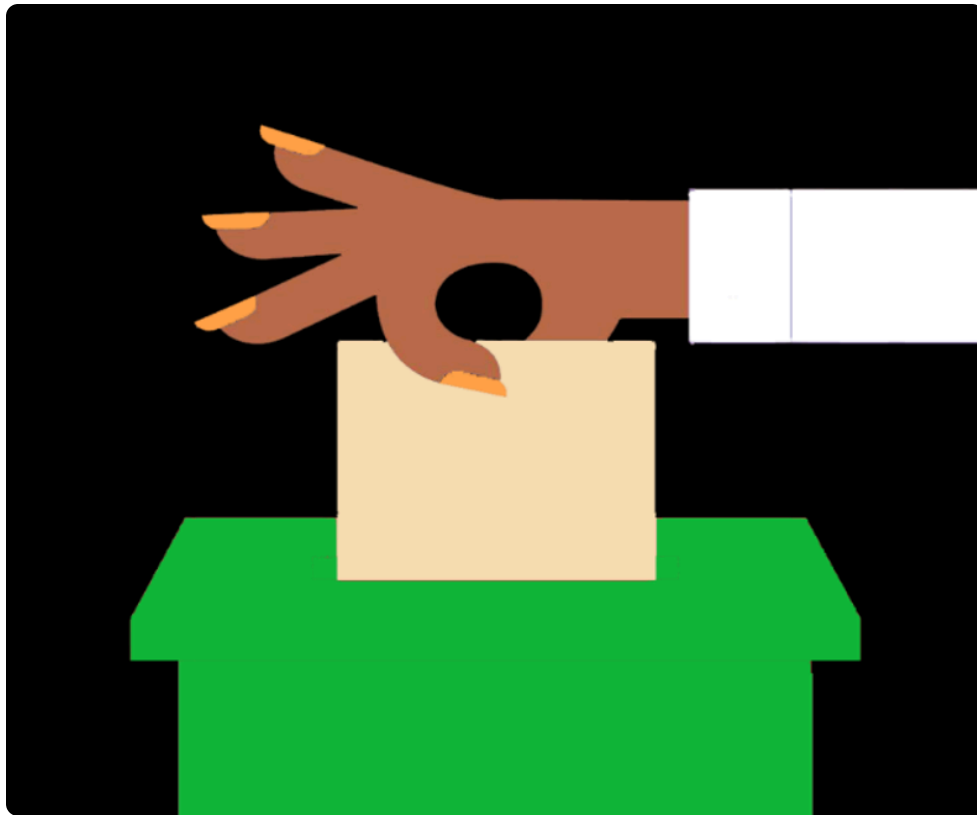
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## **UN Women supported study reveals Violence Against Women in Elections in Ethiopia occurs across the entire electoral cycle**

UN Women and Network of Ethiopian Women Association (NEWA) conducted a discussion in the Gender in Focus Webinar, hosted by NEWA on 29 March 2024, to disseminate findings from the Violence Against Women in Elections in Ethiopia (VAWiE) study, a collaborative effort involving the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The study revealed that VAWiE occurs across the entire electoral cycle, encompassing various forms of violence including psychological, physical, sexual, and economic violence. Specific incidents identified include preventing women from voting, harassment, assault, and discrimination against women candidates.





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## UN Women Supported Policy Dialogue on Gender-Responsive Budgeting for House of People's Representatives

UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs in Ethiopia organized a refresher training session and policy dialogue with members of the House of People's Representatives' Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sports Standing Committee, as well as the Budget and Finance Standing Committee on 25 May 2024 in Bishoftu town. The dialogue aimed to discuss solutions for ensuring that policies and budgetary decisions are designed and implemented equitably. A key outcome of the dialogue was a renewed commitment from committee members and a consensus on the need for a legal framework to enforce the Gender Budget Statement (GBS).

H.E Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, emphasized that while sectors are legally required to allocate 2% of their budget for HIV-related work, no such clear provision exists for women. The upcoming "Country Gender Profile for Ethiopia" report, developed with UN Women, will highlight the cost of gender inequality and recommend budget allocations for gender equality. This report will inform advocacy efforts for the GBS. Dr. Ergoge noted that the lack of institutionalization and legal framework for Gender-the implementation of the GBS.



*H.E Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, gives remarks.(Photo: Fanos Derese/ MoWSA)*

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## **UN Women, Partners, delivered a Capacity building on Prevention and Response of GBV against Migrant Women**

UN Women in partnership with the Addis Ababa Regional Partnership Coalition has delivered a three-day training “Capacity building on Prevention and Response of Gender-Based Violence against Migrant Women”. The training that took place from 22nd to 24th of May 2024 in Bishotfu aimed to enhance the capacity of government stakeholders, service providers, and civil society organizations (including women’s rights organizations and migrant women led organizations), on the prevention and response to end violence against migrant women.



*Participants of the training took place 22-24 May 2024 in Bishoftu. (Photo: UN Women/Bethlehem Negash)*

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## **UN Women supported the first Gender Audit Manual for the Office of the Federal Audit General**

Through the support of UN Women in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government has taken various steps to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as part of its commitments to realize its gender focused targets aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and its Ten-Year Perspective Plan(2021-2030). The first - ever Gender Audit manual developed by the support of UN Women and its implementation by the Office of the Federal Audit General (OFAG) is among the tangible results. The gender manual, targeting audit experts at the Office of the Federal Audit General aims to enable an effective performance audit of gender equality at ministries and other government agencies. Through the support of UN Women, the audit experts at the institution were also capacitated through various trainings on gender equality auditing including on proper application of the manual.





*Mr. Tesfaye Alemu, the Performance Audit Manager at OFAG (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)*

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## Presidential Leadership Program Alumni Reunion Event

As part of its wider empowering women in leadership program, UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and the Office of the President of Ethiopia has launched the Presidential Leadership Program for Women Leaders; a flagship initiative by H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde in February 2022. Through the seven round leadership capacity building sessions, the program reached over 300 women leaders from across different parts of the country including regions where women's representation in leadership is visibly low like Gambella, Benshangul-Gumuz, Afar and Somali. Notably, more than 130 trainees are parliamentarians from the House of Peoples Representatives.

From 23-24 March 2024, UN Women Ethiopia in collaboration with MoWSA and the Office of the President organized the Presidential Leadership Program Alumni Reunion. The event aimed to create a network of influential women leaders with a strong voice and knowledge to challenge the status quo through networking, cross learning and knowledge-sharing. It also celebrated the achievements of women leaders who participated in the seven-round

supportive community of women leaders in Ethiopia.



*Participants of the alumni event with H.E President Sahle-Work Zewdie, H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye Minister Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Mrs. Cecile Mukarubuga, UN Women Ethiopia Country Rep. Photo Credit: UN Women/Tensae Yemane*

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## Unlocking Opportunities for CSOs to Catalyze Women's Empowerment and Peace Building in Ethiopia

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a key role in promoting women's equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and peacebuilding. A context assessment on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Situation in Ethiopia produced by UN Women in November 2022, highlighted that an increased number of CSOs working on the WPS field is an opportunity for women's rights to be further improved and realized. UN Women aims to support the promotion and implementation of the WPS agenda and the effective participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building to create a cohesive, just, inclusive, and democratic society.



UN Women Ethiopia has awarded small grants to CSOs to support their work and to facilitate a flourishing civil society field. Ethiopian CSOs have insufficient knowledge on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and general operational capacity after a decade of strong legal restrictions that was lifted after political reform in 2018. One of the CSOs that were awarded small grants by UN Women Ethiopia is New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO), a non-governmental humanitarian and peacebuilding organization dedicated to empowering women, girls, and youth across six Ethiopian regions—Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Addis Ababa—through various programs focused on capacity building, advocacy, leadership development, and humanitarian interventions.



*Ms. Tigst Alebachew, Founder and Directress of New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization. (Photo: Bethlehem Negash)*

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