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ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

2024 Quarter 3 Newsletter



Message From The Representative



Dear Partners

We are bringing the third quarter newsletter to you, filled with events in our Country office, some impact stories, and new publications. Speaking of events, at the end of this quarter, we were busy planning to host a senior leader from UN women Head Quarters, hence the delay in sharing this newsletter to add this important engagement.

We were honored to host Dr. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results. The visit by DED Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda marked a pivotal opportunity to reinforce and strategically align the partnership between UN Women and Ethiopian government and CSOs as well as between UN Women, the African Union Commission (AUC), and UNECA and UN sister agencies.

The mission focused on advancing gender equality, women's rights, and empowerment in Ethiopia and across Africa, while addressing systemic challenges and harnessing political will to drive meaningful change for women and girls continent-wide.

Her visit coincides with the Africa Pre-CSW69 discussions on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +30, and the AU Special Technical Committee (STC) meetings, which aimed to review and endorse the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWGs) and the Africa common position.

Over the course of 12 days, her visit included high-level courtesy meetings with the UNCT in Ethiopia, AU officials, UNECA, and the UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) Africa. The DED had also engaged in 15 plus consultations with key stakeholders, including over 200 youth leaders and civil society organizations attending the B+30 review consultations which was among the main purpose of the visit.

This issue of the Newsletter highlights DED's engagements with the UN country team and high-level engagements with UN Women Ethiopia partners including government, CSOs and the youth.

Happy reading

Cecile Mukarubuga,

Country Representative, UN Women Ethiopia

In Focus

UN Women's Deputy Executive Director Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda visits Ethiopia, engages in Beijing +30 Africa Consultations



Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, warmly welcomed by the ESAR RD (a.i.) Ms Hoddan Addou, Ms. Cecile Mukarubuga, UN Women representative to Ethiopia and and Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women representative to Malawi. Photo: UN Women/James Ochweri

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women's Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, System Coordination, Programme Results had an official working visit to Ethiopia 27 October - 08 November 2024. The objective of the visit was to take part in Beijing +30 Africa

DED's visit to Ethiopia Country Office Programs and Partners



Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, meeting with H.E Semerita Sewasew, State Minister for Finance Photo:UN Women/James Ochweri

High level bilateral meeting with H.E Semerita Sewasew, State Minister for Finance, was DED's first engagement with Ethiopia country office partners. The discussion focused on Ms. Renewing UN Women's commitment and availability to advance financing for gender equality in collaboration with the ministry. [Read more](#)

In Other News

UN Women and Partners launched a Shelter for GBV survivors in Kombolcha and Axum towns of Amhara and Tigray Regions



Participants at the launching ceremony in Axum. Photo: UN Women/Bethlehem Negash

UN Women Ethiopia is tackling the challenges posed by VAWG by strengthening, expanding, and standardizing essential services for survivors, including supporting the establishment of shelters, one-stop centers, and hotlines in various regions of Ethiopia, in alignment with the United Nations Global Essential Services Package.

To this end, UN Women launched two shelters to provide services for survivors of violence against women including Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). The shelter in Kombolcha town of the Amhara region, run by UN Women's implementing partner Association of Women in Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD), was launched on 8th August 2024, and the Axum shelter, run by Women Association of Tigray (WAT) is one of the pioneering organizations in Tigray to provide shelter services for survivors of violence against women and girls, was opened in 10 October 2024. [Read more](#)

Addressing the huge Demand for Services by Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls in Ethiopia



Photo: Mieraf Debrework (right) and Ribka Getachew (left), counsellors at a shelter for survivors of GBV, inside a makeshift counselling tent they use to counsel children in the safe house run by AWSAD, a UN Women partner in Ethiopia. Photo: UN Women/James Ochweri

In Ethiopia, violence against women and girls continues to be a major challenge and a threat to women's empowerment. Women and girls face physical, psychological and sexual abuse that undermines their health and ability to earn livelihoods, disrupts social systems and relationships, and, in the case of girls, robs them of their childhoods and education. According to the 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) report, nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of women have experienced physical violence at some point in their lives while 10 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence.

Mieraf Debrework is a trained gender-based violence (GBV) counsellor who has been working at the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD), an Ethiopian Resident Charity Association, for the past six years. AWSAD, one of UN Women's implementing partners, was established to advance women's social and economic development and provide support for women and girls who face physical and psychological violence and operates five safe houses in different regions of Ethiopia. Mieraf is stationed at a shelter in Addis Ababa. A new shelter is currently under construction to address the issue of insufficient space in the previous setting AWSAD was renting in the middle of the city. The new construction will also be more child friendly and have a space for training, Mieraf hopes.

[Read more](#)

**Supporting gender responsive reporting in migration prone areas
as a catalyst to effective media reporting in Ethiopia**



Participants of the Workshop. Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe

UN Women Ethiopia, in partnership with the Ethiopian Media Women Association (EMWA) organized a three-day capacity building training workshop on gender-responsive reporting on migration targeting women journalists and decision makers working in media institutions from migration prone regions of Ethiopia. The workshop held from 4-6 September 2024 in Addis Ababa trained twenty-five participants from print and electronic media, including journalists, editors, and reporters who were mostly members of the association. Through creating awareness on gender dimensions of migration, gender-responsive reporting, the challenges in migration reporting in Ethiopia as well as ways of combating misinformation and shaping the narrative on gender and migration, the workshop aimed to enhance quality and effective media reporting with a focus on making migration safer. [Read more](#)

From Where I Stand: “Raised among women who were strong, for me women’s strength is a norm not an exception.”



Ms. Saba Gebre Medhin, Executive Directress at the Network of Ethiopian Women Association (NEWA). Photo: Courtesy of NEWA

“My name is Saba Gebre Medhin. I was born and raised in Addis Ababa by a strong single mother in a family of three girls and one boy, hence knowing that a woman is as strong as a man. I went to a private girls’ school, and I never understood the difference—the patriarchy. At a younger age, I was known for asking the ‘why?’ including for people’s rights being violated. [Read more](#)

New Publications

[Policy Brief: Gender Responsive Unpaid Care and Domestic Work](#)

[Policy Brief: Unpaid Care and Domestic Work Training of Trainers’ Manual](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture: Training of Trainers Manual Abridged Version](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture: Training of Trainers Manual Abridged Version](#)

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