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Message From The Representative



Dear Partners,

Happy New Year!

We bring you the Newsletter summarizing activities during the last quarter of 2024.

As we gear towards continuing our work of empowering women and girls with a renewed spirit for 2025, we reflect on how 2024 has been for GEWE work. At UN Women Ethiopia Country Office, we concluded the year with a vibrant commemoration of 16 Days of activism. The annual Unite Campaign brought together government entities, sister UN Agencies, CSO, Women Led organizations among others. It was yet another opportunity to collaborate and renew commitment to work for betterment of the lives of women and girls in Ethiopia.

We were privileged to gather in Dire Dawa City on 25 November 2024, to launch this year's campaign nationally, in the presence of higher government officials, heads and representatives of UN agencies, development partners, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Service Organizations, religious and traditional leaders, women groups, and the media.

years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls. Nationally, the 19th annual campaign was commemorated through a local motto “Violence Against Women affects me as well and I won’t stop speaking”.

This issue of the newsletter gives special focus on successful advocacy events while it also provides highlights of activities undertaken by UN Women in collaboration with partners.

Happy Reading!

Cecile Mukarubuga,

UN Women Representative to Ethiopia.

In Focus



UN Women has joined the government, CSO implementing partners, development partners and sister UN Agencies in commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign for 2024.



This year’s UNiTE campaign was implemented under the global framework of **“Towards 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls**. Nationally, the 19th annual campaign was commemorated through a local motto **“Violence Against Women affects me as well and I won’t stop speaking”** .

Hereunder are list and summary of events UN Women has participated in and led during this year's campaign.

National Launching Event in Dire Dawa City

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign is launched in Dire Dawa City Administration on 25 November 2024 in the presence of higher government officials, heads and representatives of UN agencies, development partners, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Service Organizations, religious and traditional leaders, women groups, and the media.

Among the key activities were key notes and remarks from the House of the people's Representative (Parliament), Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Bureau of Women and Social Affairs, as well as UN Agencies and Development partner. A documentary video was showed on the national efforts to prevent and response GBV, and recommitment and Accountability pledges from key government sector offices, including the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and Religious and Traditional leaders.



Key government sector offices, UN agencies, religious and traditional leaders expressed their commitment to accelerate efforts and strengthen collaborations to end violence against women and girls.

Ms. Cecile Mukarubuga UN Women Ethiopia Country Representative said, "Ending Violence against Women and Girls is our shared responsibility, and we all have a role to play. We can and must choose to end violence against women and girls".

A Joint Solidarity Walk with UN Ethiopia

As part of the 16 Days of activism against women and girls Campaign, the UN in Ethiopia hosted a powerful event at the Economic Commission for Africa compound in partnership with UN Women Ethiopia, with the theme: "Towards 30 Years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls."

Participants from the government, UN agencies, development partners, INGOs, CSOs, WROs, and students came together to walk and exercise with one united voice on the urgent need to eliminate Gender-Based Violence.



*A joint event took place on 3rd December 2024 as part of the 16 days of activism commemoration.
Photo: UN Women/Tensae Yemane*

In his opening remarks, Mr. Schadrack Dusabe, Deputy Country Representative of UN Women Ethiopia, stated "Ending violence against women and girls is our shared responsibility. Let's jointly renew our efforts to ensure women and girls are free from all forms of violence."

During the event, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, noted that "the good news is that violence against women and children is preventable and there is more evidence than ever before about what works."

The voices of adolescent girls and young women resonated with a powerful message: "We must unite and amplify our voices to break this cycle of violence. The time to act is now, to ensure the safety, dignity, and rights of all women and girls."

Event with CSO and GBV Campaign Group

UN Women in collaboration with Network of Ethiopian Women Association (NEWA) launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign workshop with GBV campaign group on 26 November 2024 in Addis Ababa. Over fifty participants including CSOs, governmental organizations, media houses and staff members of UN agencies and NEWA partook.



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

Among the activities held were launching of UN Women supported Gender Based Violence Campaign strategy and action plan by GBV campaign group, UN Women's presentation on Beijing +30 process and updates, as well as the way forward in GBV context.

The GBV campaign group members and other participants also made their commitments to contribute on eliminating GBV at individual, at community and at institutional levels. "Despite our collaborative efforts, currently Gender Based Violence seems to escalate at national and global levels in number and forms. Considering the enormous gaps, what is done so far is like a drop in an ocean. It is time to collaboratively revise our advocacy campaign approaches and take actions to bridge the gaps." Ms. Yelfigne Abegaz, National program coordinator of UN Women Ethiopia."

UN Women Staff's visit to GBV Survivor's Shelter

As part of the 16 Days of activism campaign against GBV, UN Women Ethiopia organized a community outreach day and spent a vibrant time with survivors of violence and frontline service providers at Association of Women in Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) shelter in Adama , Oromia regi on on 28th November 2024.

Ethiopian Country office together with liaison office staff members and survivors participated in various joint activities including question and answer session on GBV, talent show competitions and visit of the various facilities in the center. UN Women staff provided in-kind donation to the shelter and shared empowering written messages to each survivor at the shelter.



UN Women and AWSAD staff celebrating the 16 Days of Activism at AWSAD's Adama shelter.

Photo: (UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)

“This vibrant one to one interaction with all survivors and the empowering written messages given to each one of them is the first of its kind. The survivors, the service providers and I are thrilled and express our heartfelt appreciation.” Ms. Maria Munir, Executive Director of AWSAD.

Other News and stories

Capacity Building Training for Women Leaders in Amhara Region

UN Women, in partnership with the Amhara Bureau of Women, Children, and Social Affairs, has conducted a five-day capacity-building training on crisis and transformative leadership for gender equality, as well as the roles of women in peace and security.



The training taking place in two sessions from December 8-12, 2024, in Bahir Dar city is funded by the Government of Ireland. The program is designed to strengthen the resilience and leadership skills of women leaders and aspiring leaders, both during and post conflict period by enhancing their knowledge and competencies in crisis leadership, transformative leadership, and women’s roles in peace and security. The training brings together 83 aspiring and young women from various woredas of the West Amhara zones.

Gender-responsive Disaster Preparedness & Contingency Planning Training in Somali Region

UN Women Ethiopia country office provided a 5-day training on Gender-responsive Disaster Preparedness & Contingency Planning in Jijiga city of Somali region targeting humanitarian actors in the region. from UN agencies, CSOs, WLOs, & regional Gov't to enhance knowledge for gender-sensitive strategies using the Sendai Framework.



30 participants drawn from relevant institutions and stakeholders such as UN Agencies, Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) representatives, Women-Led and Women-Rights Organizations (WLOs/WROs) and Bureau of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (BoWCYA) participated in the training.

The training aims to enhance WLOs/WROs, and government stakeholders' that includes DRMC, agriculture Bureau, development agents, BoWCYA and others relevant agencies in the region on disaster preparedness and contingency planning by incorporating gender-sensitive strategies based on the Sendai Framework.

The training is part of the project "Strengthening UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional office Programming in Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus within Ethiopia, Somalia, and Mozambique", is supported by Swedish Partnership Fund through the regional office.

A gender-responsive planning training with Ministry of Planning and Development

UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) has provided a training on gender responsive training for experts from Dec 2-5, 2024 with the



The training was provided in two rounds and a total of 66 (31M and 35F) trainees have participated.

The Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) is the government agency responsible for national planning and development. As such, the Ministry is mandated to review the plans of sectoral ministries to ensure that they mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment. The MoPD plays a vital role in shaping Ethiopia's sustainable growth and socio-economic transformation.

Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Programming

A training on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian programming was provided 25-29 November for participants from 13 women-led and women rights organizations implementing projects in Afar, Somali, Tigray, Oromia and Amhara regions funded by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), with technical support by UN Women.

The training facilitated by UN Women and funded by WPHF aims to strengthen participants' knowledge on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian programming and to improve their organizational capacity.



The WPHF funded projects aim to ensure women and girls' safety in crisis affected areas and promote their participation in humanitarian action. Following this training, the women organizations are fully equipped to strongly advocate for gender-responsive humanitarian coordination and effectively monitor their projects.

Impact Story

Towards a coordinated response to address violence against women and the rehabilitation of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence



UN Women Ethiopia is addressing the challenges posed by violence against women and girls by strengthening, expanding, and standardizing essential services for survivors. This includes supporting the establishment and strengthening of shelters and one-stop centers, supporting the justice system and the provision of free legal aid centers in various regions of Ethiopia, in alignment with the United Nations Global Essential Services Package for women subjected to violence.

As part of a project supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) titled "Addressing the Effects of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in Ethiopia," UN Women Ethiopia partnered with the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) to provide shelter services that includes safe accommodation, individual and group counseling, medical care, legal support, skills training and facilitate economic opportunities and livelihood options for CRSV survivors and women affected by the conflict in Kombolcha town, Amhara Region.

Read More: [Towards a coordinated response to address violence against women and the rehabilitation of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence](#)

Video

Addressing the needs of conflict related sexual violence survivors in northern Ethiopia

UN Women Ethiopia, in collaboration with its implementing partners and with the support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been implementing a project to provide comprehensive services to survivors of violence.



New Publications

[OVERVIEW - DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE UPTAKE AND USE OF GENDER DATA IN ETHIOPIA](#)

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