



UNITED NATIONS  
ETHIOPIA



# UNITED NATIONS ETHIOPIA

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT  
2024–2025

CONCLUDING THE 2020–2025  
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

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# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



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FOR ETHIOPIA A.I.



**The 2024–2025 UN Country Results Report provides a comprehensive overview of the collective contributions of the United Nations Country Team toward the realization of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

As the final report delivered under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020–2025, it marks the conclusion of a five-year strategic cycle dedicated to fostering national stability and growth. Throughout this reporting period, the United Nations system worked as a strategic partner to the Government, adapting its support to a dynamic context shaped by development priorities, periodic shocks, and evolving needs across communities. The work of the UNCT was characterized by a deliberate shift from direct service delivery toward the strengthening of national systems, ensuring that development gains are both sustainable and anchored in national institutional frameworks. This institutional approach has allowed the UN system to provide catalytic support that aligns closely with the government's vision for a resilient and inclusive future.

The impact of these collective efforts is evidenced by significant achievements across the pillars of the Cooperation Framework. In the realm of peace and governance, the UN system played a pivotal role in the demobilization and reintegration of over 60,000 ex-combatants while simultaneously enhancing the capacity of the judiciary and national police through targeted technical training. These efforts were complemented by large-scale interventions in the social sectors, where the UN ensured that nearly 14 million people gained access to safe water and hundreds of thousands of children were successfully reintegrated into the formal education system. Furthermore, the UN's commitment to economic resilience was demonstrated through the provision of climate-smart agricultural support to nearly half a million smallholder farmers and the expansion of social safety nets to over one million vulnerable households.

Central to the UN's strategy during this period was the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, which seeks to address the root causes of vulnerability rather than merely responding to its symptoms. By integrating peacebuilding objectives with humanitarian relief and long-term development programming, the UNCT has fostered a more holistic approach to

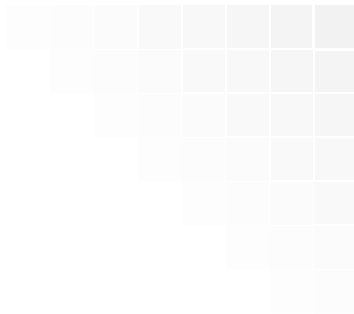
community resilience. This was particularly evident in the UN's response to environmental pressures, where immediate assistance was paired with long-term investments in disaster risk management and infrastructure. These interventions have not only saved lives but have also laid the groundwork for communities to better withstand future shocks without regressing into crisis.

While the progress documented in this report is substantial, the UN system remains attentive to the areas where continued effort is needed to sustain and accelerate development gains. Variations in local conditions, periodic shocks, and capacity constraints in some regions continue to influence the pace of progress. These realities underscore the importance of sustained investment in national systems and strong coordination at all levels. As the United Nations Country Team concludes the 2020-2025 UNSDCF cycle and moves forward into a new strategic period, it remains fully committed to working alongside the Government and national partners to build on the achievements of the past five years and to ensure that the benefits of development reach all communities, leaving no one behind in the journey toward the 2030 Agenda.

# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia comprises 28 United Nations organizations, funds and specialized programmes, including two non-resident agencies. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa is also present in Addis Ababa with the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa.

## RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS



## NON-RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS



# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN ETHIOPIA

**In 2024–2025, the United Nations in Ethiopia partnered with over 360 national and international organizations to implement its development agenda. These partnerships spanned a diverse range of stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organizations (CSOs), international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, media outlets, financial institutions, and private sector companies.**

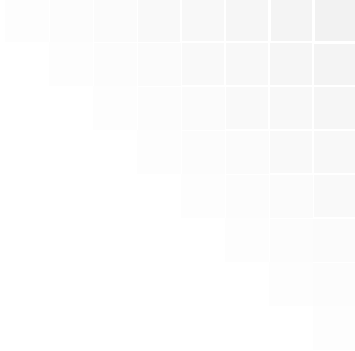
## GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

The United Nations worked closely with key government ministries and agencies whose mandates align with its priorities. These included the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Finance, Health, Industry, Innovation and Technology, Justice, Labour and Skills, Planning and Development, Trade and Regional Integration, Transport and Logistics, Water and Energy, Urban and Infrastructure, and Women and Social Affairs. Partnerships also extended to democratic institutions such as the House of People’s Representatives, the House of Federation, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and the National Dialogue Commission (ENDC).

Specialized government bodies, including the Disaster Risk Management Commission and the Refugees and Returnees Service, played a critical role in advancing disaster risk management, environmental protection, and refugee services. These collaborations ensured that the United Nations’ efforts were deeply integrated into Ethiopia’s national systems and priorities.

**Photo: Bale Mountains**  
©UNESCO

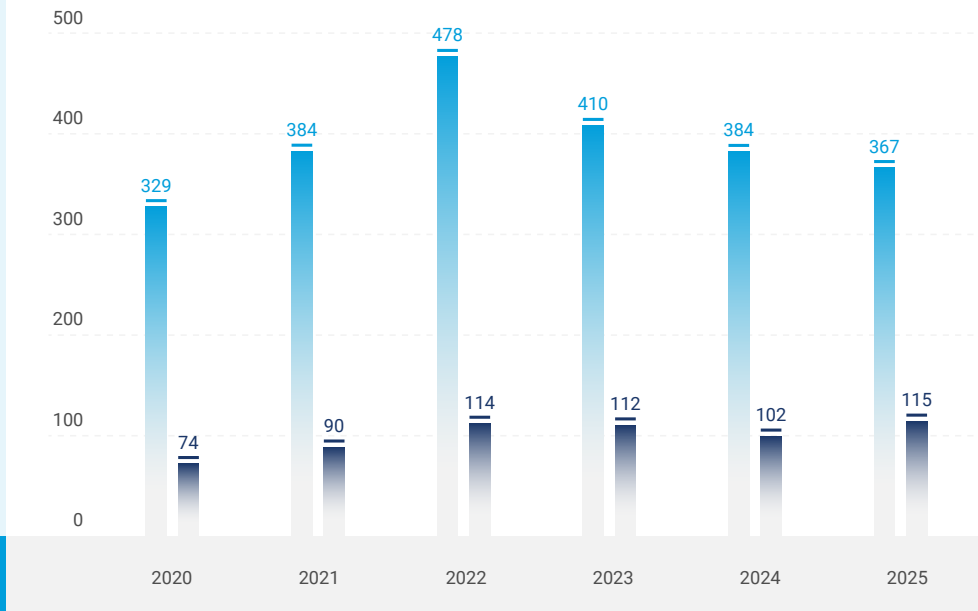
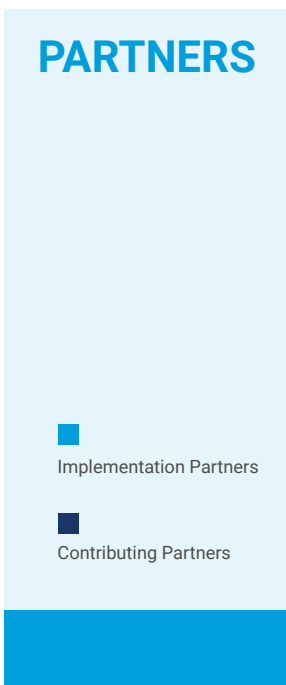
## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



The successful implementation of 290 United Nations projects during this period was made possible through the generous support of development partners. Key donors included:

- **Multilateral Organizations:** African Development Bank Group, European Union, and the World Bank.
- **Foundations:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IKEA Foundation, and Mastercard Foundation.
- **Governments:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
- **Global Health Partners:** Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

These partnerships exemplify the power of collective action, enabling the United Nations to address Ethiopia's complex challenges and deliver transformative results for its people.



01

# CHAPTER 1



**Photo:** Kindu Demisse, a dedicated tailor from the Amhara region, is seated at his traditional sewing machine.  
©UNDP

## CHAPTER 1

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Ethiopia entered the 2024–2025 period with strong momentum toward its national development priorities, guided by the Ten Year Development Plan (TYDP) and continued efforts to address the root causes of vulnerability through long term resilience and development solutions. Despite a challenging global landscape, including climate shocks, rising humanitarian needs across the region, and constrained international financing, Ethiopia continued to advance reforms in economic governance, peacebuilding, and climate action. Throughout the year, the United Nations worked in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and supported by international development partners to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on equitable and sustainable development.

## ECONOMIC REFORMS AND CHALLENGES

8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

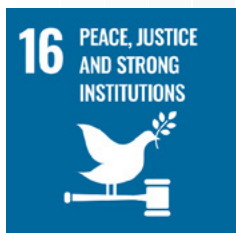


Ethiopia's **Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda 2.0**, supported by the International Monetary Fund, remained central to macroeconomic stabilization and longer term transformation. By June 2025, reforms contributed to **moderated inflation** and **increased foreign exchange reserves** following liberalization, important signals for restoring confidence and strengthening resilience. The United Nations supported national efforts through targeted technical assistance and capacity development aimed at protecting development gains and strengthening systems.

At the same time, fiscal consolidation and monetary tightening placed pressure on public expenditure, including for critical social sectors such as health and education. The planned phase out of fuel and fertilizer subsidies, while important for long term fiscal sustainability, posed risks for vulnerable households if not accompanied by mitigation measures. Currency depreciation also reduced the federal budget's dollar value, creating constraints for service delivery and for humanitarian response, particularly in areas affected by conflict and climate shocks.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations continued to prioritize support that protects human development outcomes while enabling reform implementation, focusing on poverty reduction, job creation, and equitable access to services. Ethiopia's ambition to reduce poverty to 7% by 2030 underscores the national commitment to inclusive development; at the same time, fiscal pressures and rising vulnerabilities highlight the need to expand shock responsive systems and sustain investments in people.

## PEACE AND POLITICAL STABILITY



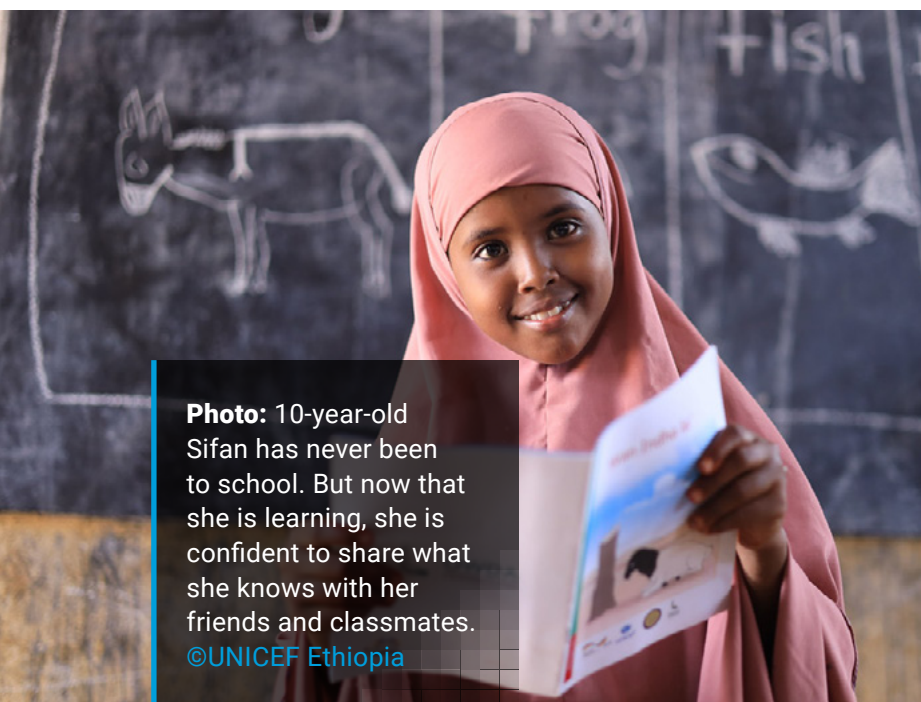
Ethiopia's peace and governance landscape during the reporting period reflected both progress in dialogue and stabilization, and localized insecurity in some areas. The **December 2024 peace agreement** with a faction of the Oromo Liberation Army and localized agreements with Fano elements in Amhara represented important steps toward reducing violence and restoring conditions for recovery. These efforts contributed to the **demobilization of a large number of combatants** across multiple regions, including in previously contested areas.

The United Nations supported peacebuilding and governance priorities by providing technical expertise, facilitating dialogue, and strengthening institutional capacities. The ENDC, whose mandate extends to January 2026, engaged **over 156,000 community members (29% women)** across 11 regions, helping lay the groundwork for the National Plenary and informing transitional justice related processes.

Ethiopia also continued to play a significant regional role as a host to refugees from South Sudan, Sudan, and Somalia, while also managing internal displacement in several regions. While the Government's leadership in responding to displacement remains strong, these dynamics continue to

place pressure on national and local systems. The United Nations worked with federal and regional authorities to strengthen response capacities, support durable solutions, and reinforce social cohesion and shared service delivery for host and displaced communities.

According to the 2024–25 Human Development Report, Ethiopia's **Human Development Index score stands at 0.497**, marking an improvement in absolute human development outcomes, even as global comparative rankings saw marginal shifts.



**Photo:** 10-year-old Sifan has never been to school. But now that she is learning, she is confident to share what she knows with her friends and classmates. ©UNICEF Ethiopia

## CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Ethiopia continued to advance an ambitious climate agenda through the **Climate Resilient Green Economy** strategy and the **Green Legacy Initiative**, which has reportedly achieved the planting of **over 40 billion seedlings** toward a national goal of 50 billion by 2030. These initiatives support ecosystem restoration, contribute to green job creation, and may expand opportunities linked to carbon markets. The **Green Legacy Fund** (USD 40–80 million annually) and Ethiopia’s updated **Nationally Determined Contribution**, targeting a **68.8% reduction in emissions by 2030**, further reinforce national climate commitments.

The United Nations supported the climate agenda by strengthening policy and institutional capacity and mobilizing partnerships and resources. Ethiopia’s energy mix, with **renewable energy accounting for 95% of electricity production**, positions the country as a regional leader in clean energy. However, climate risks continued to intensify. Droughts, floods, and environmental degradation affected agriculture and water security, underscoring the need for sustained investment, stronger risk informed governance, and climate resilient service delivery, especially in fragile and displacement affected settings.



**Photo:** Ubah Hussein, a farmer from Gode City in the Somali region, is selling some of the products she has grown on her farm at the local market

©UNDP



**Photo:** Tigist Girmay, 16, from Tsagibji, Amhara, attending class in a rehabilitated classroom  
©UNDP

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)



Ethiopia's demographic profile presents both a development dividend and an urgent challenge. With youth comprising **over 70% of the population**, progress will depend heavily on expanding access to quality education, skills, and decent work. Learning poverty remains high, with **90% of 10 year olds unable to read**, and more than **13 million children** out of school, including many from pastoralist, refugee, or displacement affected communities. These gaps threaten longer term productivity, social cohesion, and stability if not addressed at scale.

The United Nations supported national efforts to strengthen education and youth engagement, including improving access and quality and expanding opportunities for young people to contribute to peacebuilding and development processes.

Ethiopia also recorded notable milestones in women's leadership and political participation in 2024. **Hanna Arayaselassie** became the second woman to serve as Minister of Justice. The Government drafted its first **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325)** and endorsed the **AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** in February 2025.

Despite these gains, women and girls continued to face heightened risks, particularly in conflict and displacement affected areas. Public health pressures, including cholera and measles outbreaks, combined with reduced overseas aid (projected to drop by 9–17% in 2025) strained service delivery and affected the capacity of women led organizations. The United Nations continued working with the Government and partners to protect access to essential services, strengthen prevention and response systems, and ensure that progress reaches those furthest behind.



## CHAPTER 2

World Food  
Programme



**Photo:** Nekiye Wel, a 26-year-old mother of three, receives food assistance at Jewi Refugee Camp in Ethiopia's Gambella region. The camp is part of a wider response in a region that now hosts close to 400,000 refugees and asylum seeker nearly half of Ethiopia's refugee population, many of whom rely on humanitarian support to meet their basic food needs.

©WFP

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

## 2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS IN 2024 – 2025

The United Nations in Ethiopia delivered significant, measurable results in 2024–2025, aligned with national priorities and the SDGs. Working in close partnership with the GoE and supported by civil society, international development partners, and the private sector, the United Nations adopted an integrated, system-wide approach that addressed the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda. Across all outcomes, the United Nations placed a strong emphasis on reaching communities most at risk of being left behind and on strengthening national systems for long-term resilience.

### DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Substantial gains were achieved in health, education, WASH, and gender equality, foundational pillars of human development. The United Nations support contributed to 83% antenatal care coverage and **80% skilled birth attendance**, strengthening maternal and newborn health systems. Education programmes enabled **231,500 out of school children** to resume learning, with a focus on displaced, pastoralist, and marginalized communities.

In WASH, critical interventions provided **13.8 million people** with access to safe water, significantly advancing SDG 6 in both humanitarian and development settings. Progress toward gender equality (SDG 5) accelerated as United Nations-supported systems enabled **over 161,000 women and girls** to access gender-based violence (GBV) services, while large scale community mobilization efforts, reaching millions, prevented **1,868 child marriages**. These results demonstrate how integrated approaches can drive improvements across multiple SDGs simultaneously.



**Photo:** In the Maidimu site for displaced persons, in Tigray, safe spaces provide protection to women and girls.  
©IOM

## FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH:

The United Nations contributed to inclusive growth and job creation through targeted investments in employment, entrepreneurship, and women's economic empowerment. Employment intensive programmes created **4,757 jobs**, while innovation hubs and business competitions engaged thousands of young entrepreneurs, supporting a more dynamic and diversified private sector.



Women's economic participation was strengthened through the establishment of workplace childcare facilities and support to **over 2,800 women led Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)**, helping address structural barriers to women's entry and advancement in the economy. These interventions contributed to improved livelihoods and enhanced local economic resilience in alignment with Ethiopia's development priorities.

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## BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND CLEAN ENERGY:

The United Nations supported Ethiopia's climate and environmental priorities through programmes that protected livelihoods, advanced clean energy, and restored ecosystems. Climate risk insurance safeguarded the assets of over 250,000 farmers, reducing vulnerability to shocks. Reforestation and sustainable land management practices were expanded across 42,700 hectares, improving soil health and ecosystem resilience.

Clean energy transitions accelerated through the expansion of solar powered water systems and support to the Government in developing Ethiopia's first National Clean Cooking Roadmap, which targets 75% clean cooking access by 2035. These interventions helped advance Ethiopia's climate commitments while delivering immediate benefits for communities.



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## CROSS-CUTTING SDG INTEGRATION:

The United Nations' integrated programming approach ensured that interventions delivered multi dimensional results, particularly for those most at risk of being left behind. Youth empowerment initiatives combined digital skills development (SDG 4) with civic engagement (SDG 16). Climate resilient agriculture interventions (SDG 13) strengthened food security (SDG 2) and supported income generation (SDG 8). Gender equality (SDG 5) was consistently mainstreamed, from climate action to economic empowerment, demonstrating the indivisible nature of the SDGs in practice.

Through this comprehensive, system wide approach, the United Nations demonstrated the impact of coordinated action across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding domains. In partnership with the GoE and supported by international development partners, the United Nations' work in 2024–2025 contributed to advancing national priorities, strengthening resilience, and accelerating progress toward the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda, even in a complex and evolving operating environment.

## 2.2. ACHIEVING COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

### OUTCOME I: PEOPLE

All people in Ethiopia enjoy the rights and capabilities to realize their potential in equality and with dignity.

In 2024–2025, the United Nations in Ethiopia delivered significant results for the people of Ethiopia by strengthening national systems and expanding services at scale. This included equipping girls with digital and entrepreneurship skills (coding, AI, blockchain); **mobilizing over 2.3 million people** through community dialogues that **cancelled 1,868 child marriages and averted 238 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases**; partnering with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to reach 83% antenatal care coverage and **provide healthcare to 2.8 million people in crisis settings**; and supporting the Government to launch the National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways to Internal Displacement. These efforts prioritized the most vulnerable, including women, children, youth, refugees, and persons with disabilities.



**2.3 MILLION**

people mobilized through community dialogues



**2.8 MILLION**

people were provided healthcare in crisis settings

#### Output 1.1.

Young people, especially those left behind in education and employment, are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to access decent jobs and participate in civic life

The United Nations advanced youth skills development and civic engagement, with targeted focus on those furthest behind, including girls, refugees, and youth with disabilities.

#### Digital Skills and Civic Engagement

Digital platforms enhanced employability and civic voice. The “Unlock Her Potential” program equipped 60 adolescent girls with digital, life, and employability skills, with one-third being refugees and half having disabilities. Through U-Report, 21,625 youth engaged in national policy discussions via polls, and 175 created video essays on environmental sustainability, amplifying youth voices in development processes.



**21,625**

youth engaged in national policy discussions through U-Report

**175**

created video essays on environmental sustainability



**185**

girls attained digital skills and coding in the African Girls Can Code Initiative



**120**

girls trained on AI, Blockchain, and ICT in the Her Digital Skills for Life Initiative



**134**

girls engaged under the theme of inclusive digital transformation for International Girls in ICT Day



**475**

participants engaged in the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Support Hub in Addis & Jimma

**1,016**

individual received training in the program

Large-scale civic mobilization directly engaged tens of thousands of young people through partnerships with universities, government councils, and NGOs, including 5,500 in Somali Region and 4,500 in Tigray. Digital storytelling projects expanded youth engagement in regions like Afar and Benishangul/Gumuz. A nexus approach integrated youth across sectors, for example, 256,700 children and adolescents participated in nutrition advocacy, with 3,180 creating educational videos.

### Girls in Technology and Entrepreneurship

The United Nations implemented targeted digital inclusion programmes for girls:

- **African Girls Can Code Initiative:** 185 girls attained digital skills and coding, with 65 graduates receiving ITU Academy badges.
- **Her Digital Skills for Life Initiative:** 120 girls trained on AI, Blockchain, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) careers, with mentorship from Qualcomm and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology.
- **International Girls in ICT Day:** 134 girls engaged under the theme of inclusive digital transformation.
- **Bruh-Enat Entrepreneurship Competition:** 46 young Ethiopian women equipped with digital financial and technology skills; 10 top innovators awarded seed capital (100,000–500,000 ETB) to launch business ideas, with follow-on credit support facilitated through Enat Bank.

### Entrepreneurship and Innovation Support

Hub Ethiopia provided integrated services for youth and women entrepreneurs, enhancing design capacities and promoting startups. The hubs in Addis Ababa and Jimma engaged 475 participants and trained 1,016 individuals, creating pathways to decent work and economic resilience.

## Output 1.2.

Gender inequalities and violence reduced, rights and accountability mechanisms strengthened, and opportunities for women and children enhanced



**345**

frontline service providers from health, justice, and police sectors on survivor-centred care capacity built



**208** women



**137** men

**10**

One-Stop Centres (OSCs) with essential supplies and supporting functionality equipped

**16** safe houses

**20** OSCs



**161,123**

women and girls accessed GBV-related services

**19,135** women received free legal aid

**42,221** child survivors (23,720 girls, 18,501 boys) received integrated health, legal, and psychosocial support legal aid

The United Nations supported Ethiopia in reducing gender inequality and violence through a multi-faceted approach: strengthening national systems and policies, expanding service delivery, and mobilizing communities to change harmful social norms.

### Strengthening National Systems and Policies

The United Nations provided technical support to bolster Ethiopia's institutional framework for gender equality. A major milestone was completion of the **draft National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**, submitted to the Prime Minister's Office for endorsement. To ensure government-wide accountability, the United Nations supported a Gender Levelling Tool assessment of 21 ministries, publicly recognizing the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture for performance, followed by capacity-building for 16 sector ministries. A strategic Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and the Auditor General integrated gender into government performance audits. The United Nations also assisted Ethiopia in fulfilling international reporting commitments (Beijing+30, SDGs) and advocated domestically for a comprehensive Children's Bill.

### Enhancing Service Delivery and Accountability

The United Nations standardized and improved essential services for survivors of violence. This involved:

- Building capacity of **345 frontline service providers** (208 women, 137 men) from health, justice, and police sectors on survivor-centred care.
- Equipping **10 One-Stop Centres (OSCs)** with essential supplies and supporting functionality of **16 safe houses and 20 OSCs**.
- Rolling out **National GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** and approving the **GBV Information Management System Plus – GBVIMS+ system for 96 sites**.
- **Direct impact:** Over **161,123 women and girls** accessed GBV-related services; **19,135 women** received free legal aid; **42,221 child survivors** (23,720 girls, 18,501 boys) received integrated health, legal, and psychosocial support.



**>2.3 MILLION**

reached through dialogues

**12.6 million** via weekly radio broadcasts



**1,868** child marriages cancelled



**238** FGM cases averted



**373** communities across six regions publicly declared commitment to abandon FGM



**SASA!** methodology in Adama, Oromia - Community support for survivors increased from 50% to 85%



**317,717** religious and community leaders engaged as advocates for change

**20**



community dialogue groups targeted harmful gender norms in Gambella



**1,086** school leaders (65% women) and



**3,392** gender club members in 320 schools in Afar and Gambella trained to foster safer learning environments

## Large-Scale Community Mobilization and Norm Change

The United Nations leveraged evidence-based tools to drive cultural shifts against harmful practices. Mobilization reached **over 2.3 million people** through dialogues and an estimated **12.6 million via weekly radio broadcasts**.

Tangible results included:

- **1,868 child marriages cancelled and 238 FGM cases averted**, protecting 161,632 girls.
- **373 communities** across six regions publicly declared commitment to abandon FGM.
- **SASA! methodology in Adama, Oromia:** Community support for survivors increased from 50% to 85%; those helping women experiencing violence rose from 29% to 79%; individuals speaking out about VAWG grew from 22% to 80%.
- **317,717 religious and community leaders** engaged as advocates for change.

In Gambella, **20 community dialogue groups** targeted harmful gender norms, with the Family Life Model embedded in Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to facilitate household-level gender reflections.

## Creating Safe Public and Institutional Spaces

Interventions targeted safety in schools, public areas, and workplaces:

- **1,086 school leaders** (65% women) and **3,392 gender club members** in 320 schools in Afar and Gambella trained to foster safer learning environments.
- Gender-responsive urban safety measures implemented in Addis Ababa, Shashemene, and Hawassa, including streetlight repairs and a landmark bylaw against sexual harassment in public transportation.
- **Sidama Region** officially adopted a dress code policy protecting women hotel waitresses from indecent uniforms.



**2 MILLION**

people reached involving

**66**  
organizations

**238**  
districts



**790,719** individuals accessed direct GBV services



**1,125,922** people participated in awareness-raising activities.

### Establishing Robust Systems for Protection and GBV Response

In collaboration with MoWSA, the United Nations established **one national and eight regional GBV Areas of Responsibility and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Working Groups** across eight regions. This multi-level coordination platform, involving **66 organizations across 238 districts**, enabled scale-up of services and awareness, reaching approximately **2 million people**. Specific outcomes:

- **790,719 individuals** accessed direct GBV services.
- **1,125,922 people** participated in awareness-raising activities.
- **Over 5.6 million people** (including 3.3 million youth) reached with peace and GBV prevention messaging via radio in Oromia and Amhara.

Five **Community Peace Dialogue Committees (CPDCs)** established in Tigray, composed of trained Peace Ambassadors, serve as early warning and response mechanisms for conflict and GBV risks, with plans for expansion to 135 additional woredas.

### Output 1.3.

Equitable access to basic social services is strengthened, benefiting vulnerable, marginalized and displacement affected people

The United Nations collaborated with government partners to strengthen equitable access to health, nutrition, WASH, education, and social protection for vulnerable, marginalized, and displacement-affected populations.

### Health and Nutrition

Partnership with the MoH yielded significant gains:

**Maternal health:** Antenatal care reached **83%** and skilled birth attendance **80%** in 2025, supported by deploying **222 midwives** and using **2,362 maternity waiting homes**. **1,990 women** received fistula repair surgeries; family planning services reached nearly **5 million couples**.

**Maternal health:**

**~5 MILLION**

couples reached for family planning services

- 83%** Antenatal care reached
- 80%** skilled birth attendance in 2025
- 222** midwives deployed
- 2,362** maternity waiting homes
- 1,990** women received fistula repair surgery

**Child health:**

**1.7 MILLION**

people vaccinated against measles

- 81%** Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (first dose) (DPT1) immunization coverage
- 635,110** zero-dose children reached

**Communicable diseases:**

**2.2 MILLION**

insecticide-treated nets distributed for malaria prevention

- 90.2%** TB treatment coverage
- 89%** HIV Antiretroviral Therapy coverage

**Health system strengthening:**

**2.8 MILLION**

people in humanitarian settings

- 76** health facilities rehabilitated in conflict-affected areas

**Nutrition:**

**14 MILLION**

provided Vitamin A supplements

- 619,450** children treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition

- Child health:** Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (first dose) (DPT1) immunization coverage rose to **81%**; **635,110 zero-dose children** reached. **1.7 million people** vaccinated against measles.
- Communicable diseases:** TB treatment coverage at **90.2%**; HIV Antiretroviral Therapy coverage at **89%**; **2.2 million insecticide-treated nets** distributed for malaria prevention.
- Health system strengthening:** **76 health facilities** rehabilitated in conflict-affected areas; primary healthcare access provided for **2.8 million people** in humanitarian settings.

**Nutrition:** **619,450 children** treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition; **14 million children** provided Vitamin A supplements. A new partnership with the Ministry of Finance established a **national nutrition budget tracking system**, strengthening long-term sustainability.

**WASH and Education**

- WASH:** **13.8 million people** gained access to safe water. Water quality testing revealed contamination in 51% of samples, guiding critical interventions.
- Education:** **231,500 out-of-school children** resumed learning; **19,963 girls** received school supplies; **12,167 children with disabilities** benefited from inclusive interventions and assistive devices. Schools built or rehabilitated across seven regions with gender-sensitive WASH facilities.



**WASH:**

**13.8 MIL**

people gained access to safe water



**Education:**

**231,500**

out-of-school children resumed learning

#### Output 1.4.

Displacement-affected persons enabled to find safe, dignified and voluntary solutions to rebuild their lives in sustainable ways

In response to complex challenges of conflict, climate shocks, and displacement affecting millions in Ethiopia, the United Nations advanced durable solutions for displacement-affected populations through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach grounded in the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus.

#### Strengthened Coordination and Community-Centred Planning

Ethiopia advanced government-led efforts toward addressing displacement. The **National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways to Internal Displacement** was launched in November 2024, supported through the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund Joint Programme. Developed by the Government with United Nations' support, the strategy aligns with the Kampala Convention, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions, and the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda, integrating internal displacement into Ethiopia's recovery and development agenda. Costed action plans were finalized in Somali, Afar, Oromia, and Tigray.

Operationally, pilot regions advanced toward local integration and relocation. The United Nations supported the Government to establish statutory migration governance and coordination mechanisms at federal, regional, and city administration levels, and enhanced coordination platforms including regional Durable Solutions Working Groups and the Federal Solutions Working Group. These forums unified United Nations agencies, NGOs, government bodies, and donors around collective outcomes in high-displacement regions. Planning was informed by community-based consultations and intention surveys, ensuring support for return, local integration, or relocation was voluntary and dignified.

#### Expanding Access to Basic Services through Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

A cornerstone of the response was improving equitable access to basic services. The United Nations facilitated rehabilitation of schools and expanded climate-resilient WASH infrastructure. The multi-partner R-WASH initiative, implemented with the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), strengthened water utilities for both host and displaced communities. **72 solar-powered water systems** were installed, guided by Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, ensuring long-term sustainability. The initiative directly benefited **98,561 people**, including refugees, IDPs, and host community members, reinforcing social cohesion through shared resources.



**Photo:** In the Somali region of Ethiopia, IOM is piloting a Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) to strengthen evidence-based data for humanitarian action and boost the resilience of pastoral communities affected by climate shocks.

©IOM



**Photo:** WASH Support in Hintalo, Tigray ©UNOPS

## Empowering Communities and Bolstering Local Economies

The United Nations bolstered community resilience through grassroots economic and social initiatives. Support for Mother Self-Help Group(s), including seed funding, enabled mothers to establish small businesses, increasing household income and reinforcing children's school attendance. This holistic model, spanning livelihood assistance, infrastructure rehabilitation, and peacebuilding, provided critical support for communities transitioning from displacement to recovery.



**6,885** unaccompanied and separated children received family tracing and reunification



**149,430** individuals received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



**220,939** survivors received GBV in Emergencies services



**25** arbitrarily detained children facilitated for release



**15** community-based monitors trained & established

## Targeted Child Protection and Crisis Response

The United Nations ensured protection of the most vulnerable through focused interventions:

- **Family tracing and reunification** for **6,885 unaccompanied and separated children**.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** for **149,430 individuals**.
- **GBV in Emergencies services** for **220,939 survivors**.
- **25 arbitrarily detained children** facilitated for release through strengthened protection monitoring and advocacy.
- **15 community-based monitors** trained and a **Women and Children Protection Task Force** established in North and South Wollo Zones and Bahir Dar to monitor detention conditions and human rights violations.

## Empowering Youth as Drivers of Peace and Resilience

A particularly impactful initiative empowered refugee and host community youth in Benishangul/Gumuz and Gambella to lead peacebuilding efforts. **387 youth** trained subsequently reached **850 additional peers**, fostering coexistence. In Gambella, combining peacebuilding with vocational training (tailoring, electronics) led to **10 small enterprises**. Youth in Benishangul/Gumuz launched a community-run bakery reinvesting profits into local peace initiatives. **Three youth safe spaces** and a regional conflict analysis positioned youth as central drivers of peace and economic resilience.

Working alongside the GoE, the United Nations supported these critical priorities by coordinating across sectors, providing technical expertise, and mobilizing resources to ensure progress reached the most vulnerable populations. The United Nations' role was to convene diverse actors, including government, private sector, civil society, and communities, strengthen national systems and policies, and ensure that no one was left behind. These efforts contributed to building more resilient communities and advancing Ethiopia's development priorities.



**Photo:** Addis is part of a youth dance crew at the Maidimu site for displaced persons, in Tigray. With poise and power, she dances with quiet focus while friends clap behind her.

©IOM

## OUTCOME II: JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society.

In 2024–2025, the United Nations in Ethiopia advanced justice, democracy, and peace in a context of ongoing recovery from conflict. Key achievements included rehabilitating 58 government offices in conflict-affected regions to restore state presence and service delivery; supporting the development of critical legal frameworks such as the Crime Prevention Strategy and Legal Aid Proclamation; training over 2,700 justice and security personnel on human rights; providing legal aid to over 29,000 vulnerable people; supporting the demobilization of over 60,000 ex-combatants; and underpinning the national dialogue process. These efforts aimed to restore public trust, strengthen institutional capacity, and foster national cohesion.

### Output 2.1.

Government capacity strengthened to improve the performance of institutions and promote increased participation, transparency and accountability at the national and subnational levels

#### Restoration of Core Governance and Justice Services

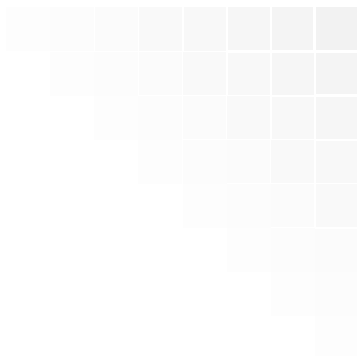
The United Nations supported the rehabilitation of **58 government offices** at regional, woreda, and kebele levels in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, enabling the resumption of local administrative functions and service delivery. This included **12 police stations** (7 in Tigray, 5 in Amhara) and justice service facilities, with local authorities and communities contributing financially and in-kind. These interventions restored visible state presence in severely affected areas, helping to rebuild public trust and improve responsiveness to community needs.

#### Strengthening National Peace and Justice Frameworks

The United Nations supported the National Rehabilitation Commission by developing policies and procedures, including a disability framework and a reintegration framework for ex-combatants, ensuring compliance with international standards and contributing to equitable, peaceful settlement.

Support to government institutions enhanced the legislative framework for fair, effective criminal justice systems and crime prevention programmes. Key instruments developed included the **Crime Prevention Strategy, Legal Aid Proclamation, and International Crimes Proclamation**, which strengthen Ethiopia's legal framework and improve access to justice. The Ministry of Justice also received support to develop subsidiary legislation establishing four new institutions and to submit written comments highlighting human rights concerns related to the Transitional Justice Policy.

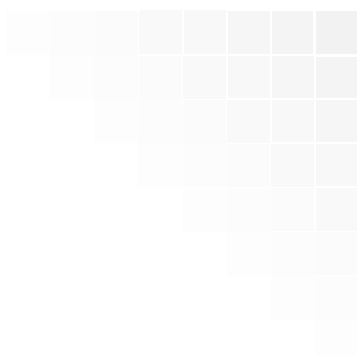
### Promoting Transparency and Inclusive Electoral Processes



In collaboration with the Ethiopia Artificial Intelligence Institute, the United Nations supported the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to launch the **National Corruption Reporting System application**, allowing secure reporting of corruption incidents and fostering a culture of integrity and transparency.

To foster greater inclusivity in electoral processes, the United Nations collaborated with the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) and civil society to support a **national assessment** evaluating systemic barriers impacting the inclusion, representation, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in elections, enabling NEBE to better address their needs.

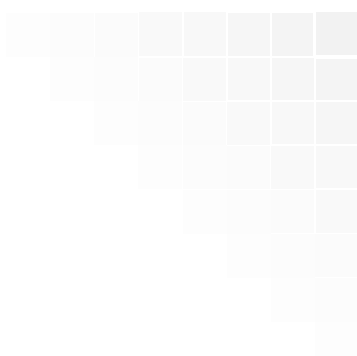
### Advancing Human Rights and International Reporting



The United Nations provided critical support for Ethiopia's engagement with international human rights mechanisms. For the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**, the United Nations supported the government process and assisted civil society in formulating submissions. Of 316 UPR recommendations, the Government supported 252, partially supported 12, and noted 52. Ethiopia secured broad acknowledgment from 85% of Member States for its progress on human rights and commitment to implementing UPR recommendations.

In early 2025, in collaboration with the EHRC, the United Nations equipped **13 members** (4 women, 9 men) of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to finalize Ethiopia's combined reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and trained **12 EHRC staff** (6 women, 6 men) to prepare their alternative report. This strengthened institutional capacities to fulfil obligations as a signatory to international treaties and conventions.

### Empowering Women in Public and Political Life



Through United Nations' support, over **662 women leaders** from Amhara, Central Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Tigray, Afar, and Gambella participated in transformative leadership capacity-development training covering gender equality, mentorship, and women's political participation, a critical initiative as the 2026 National Elections approach.

The United Nations also empowered **572 women** from Parliament, regional councils, and civil society with skills for conflict prevention and mediation. Support was provided to conflict-affected women and survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) through durable solutions, access to justice, and psychosocial support.

United Nations' monitoring reports demonstrate that out of 182 Amhara Bureau of Women and Social Affairs trainees in 2024, **69 (39%)** achieved measurable gains in knowledge, skills, and confidence and were subsequently appointed to various leadership positions.

## Output 2.2.

Capacities and mechanisms strengthened at the national and subnational level for enhanced protection of human rights, the rule of law, access to justice and protection for vulnerable populations



9

independent investigations and monitoring missions into human rights abuses in Tigray, Oromia, and Amhara



6

6 consultations advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities



2,721

justice and security personnel trained by the UN



435

women



2,286

men



8,398

people were provided with psychosocial support



5,686

women



2,712

men



2

national staff members seconded for the key national human rights bodies

### Strengthening National Human Rights Investigation and Advocacy

With **technical and financial support from the United Nations**, EHRC solidified its role as a crucial advocate for victims, demanding accountability in line with international human rights standards. This partnership enabled the Commission to conduct **9 independent investigations and monitoring missions** into human rights abuses in Tigray, Oromia, and Amhara, and to hold 6 consultations advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. The Commission promoted freedom of expression and the press, and during sudden escalations of violence, quickly issued statements and reports to draw attention to crises, mobilizing responses from local authorities and the international community.

### Building Capacity of Justice and Security Personnel

To foster a more rights-based approach to public security, the United Nations trained **2,721 justice and security personnel** (435 women, 2,286 men) on human rights and reconciliation across Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. Complementing this, psychosocial support was provided to **8,398 people** (5,686 women, 2,712 men), including 2,195 civil servants, helping to address trauma inflicted by conflict and violence.

### Enhancing Institutional Capacity for Human Rights Protection

The United Nations bolstered the institutional capacity of key human rights bodies by seconding **2 national staff members** (1 woman) to the EHRC and donating essential human rights publications, including versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated into local languages such as Sidama Afoo, Gumuz, and Keffa, for the Commission's public resource centre. Through active advocacy and technical support, the United Nations facilitated consultations with over **20 national and regional Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** and MoWSA, leading to development of a **draft second National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities**.



**29,066**

vulnerable women and young people provided with legal aid services



**333**

women and girls to access critical counselling and court representation

**3,473** children



**1,096**  
girls



**2,377**  
boys



**153**

children from marginalized or conflict-affected areas benefited from legal aid in 31 target woredas in Amhara

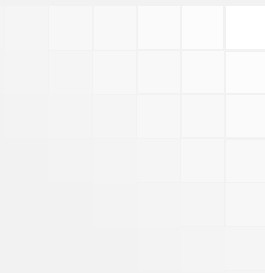
## Expanding Access to Justice and Legal Aid

The United Nations significantly expanded access to justice for vulnerable groups through a multi-faceted approach:

- Through collaboration with the Federal Supreme Court and the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, legal aid services were provided to **29,066 vulnerable women and young people**.
- Support to shelters and legal aid centres in multiple regions enabled **333 women and girls** to access critical counselling and court representation.
- A total of **4,326 individuals**, comprising 3,473 children (1,096 girls, 2,377 boys) and 853 adult women, received free legal aid services.
- In 31 target woredas in Amhara, **153 children** from marginalized or conflict-affected areas benefited from legal aid, ensuring their rights were upheld.

To sustain these efforts, the United Nations funded **10 universities and 7 CSOs** to provide quality legal aid to poor and vulnerable populations.

## Promoting Coordination and Community-Level Justice Mechanisms



The United Nations enhanced coordination among criminal justice institutions by facilitating key forums, such as the **Joint Forum for Criminal Justice in Tigray** and the **Annual Prison Commissioners Consultation**. These platforms served as critical venues for strategic dialogue and building consensus on rule of law issues. At the community level, the United Nations facilitated the establishment and training of a **15-member paralegal committee** in Somali and Afar regions, comprising police, community leaders, and justice officials, which improved identification of cases and support for victims at the local level.



**15-MEMBER**

paralegal committee in Somali and Afar regions comprising police, community leaders, and justice officials



## Empowering Civil Society and Applying Human Rights Approaches

Building on its partnership with civil society, the United Nations improved the knowledge, skills, and application of Human Rights-Based Approaches for **38 CSO representatives** (18 women). This capacity-building initiative increased their understanding and collaboration on key human rights issues, empowering them to more effectively advocate for and protect the rights of all Ethiopians.

**Photo:** The IOM Transit Centre in Addis Ababa offers vital support to Ethiopian returnees. At the centre, they receive temporary accommodation, food, health and psychosocial support, and onward transportation to their towns of origin.  
©IOM

### Output 2.3.

Peace architecture and related instruments strengthened to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict and promote peace, reconciliation and social cohesion at the national and local levels

### Strengthening Early Warning and Peacebuilding Infrastructure

The United Nations supported the operationalization of **Early Warning Networks**, which improved alert and information flows from hard-to-reach areas to identify potential conflicts before escalation. In Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, the United Nations facilitated the establishment of **Regional Peace Forums**, bringing together **33 government sectors and CSOs** to coordinate peacebuilding. This foundational work enabled:

- Peacebuilding and conflict resolution training for **2,677 individuals** (377 women, 2,300 men), who subsequently led community-level mediation and de-escalation efforts in their respective regions.
- Structured dialogues and peace conferences involving **908 people** (182 women, 726 men) in high-risk and border woredas, contributing to localized stability and improved inter-community relations.



**60,831**

ex-combatants in Afar, Oromia, Tigray, and Amhara demobilized



**9,912**  
women



**50,919**  
men



**10**

woredas improved early warning data sharing and response coordination between local authorities



**455**

assistive mobility devices to 327 ex-combatants with disabilities



**27**  
women



**300**  
men



**> 5.6 MILLION**

people in Amhara and Oromia reached with Peace Radio programmes

**50 CPDCs**

established in Tigray and Benishangul/Gumuz and facilitated the creation of Regional Taskforces on Youth Peace, and Security

## Fostering Local and National Peace Architectures

The United Nations strengthened local peacebuilding capacities, inter-woreda coordination mechanisms in **ten woredas** improved early warning data sharing and response coordination between local authorities. At the policy level, the United Nations supported the Ministry of Peace in developing and endorsing the **Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Peacebuilding in Ethiopia**, a critical step to placing women at the heart of the peace and security agenda.

## Supporting Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants

The United Nations provided crucial support to the National Demobilization and Reintegration Programme, enabling the demobilization of **60,831 ex-combatants** (9,912 women, 50,919 men) in Afar, Oromia, Tigray, and Amhara. The United Nations directly provided MHPSS to support their transition to civilian life and distributed **455 assistive mobility devices to 327 ex-combatants with disabilities** (27 women, 300 men), ensuring these vulnerable groups were not left behind in the reintegration process.

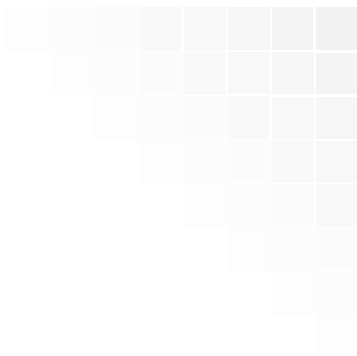
## Mobilizing Media and Communities for Social Cohesion

Strategic partnerships amplified peace messaging and created platforms for dialogue. A partnership with the Population Media Centre reached **over 5.6 million people** in Amhara and Oromia with Peace Radio programmes. The United Nations supported the establishment of **50 CPDCs** in Tigray and Benishangul/Gumuz and facilitated the creation of **Regional Taskforces on Youth Peace, and Security** (YPS) in Afar, Tigray, and Benishangul/Gumuz, providing safe spaces for youth to engage in inter-generational dialogues.

## Advancing the Women and Youth Peace and Security Agenda

The United Nations generated evidence and built capacity to inform national policy. This involved providing YPS training for CSOs, organizing strategic visioning platforms, and holding regional consultations to inform the drafting of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Women Peace and Security (WPS) and YPS. Through these platforms, the WPS and YPS agendas were popularized. The **draft National Action Plan on WPS** was finalized through extensive nationwide consultations and is pending adoption.

## Underpinning the National Dialogue Process



The United Nations continued its support to the ENDC in preparation for the **National Plenary scheduled for late 2025**, which is expected to identify 4,000–4,500 participants nationwide. A key intervention involved supporting the engagement of the Ethiopia Media Council (EMC) to identify critical media issues, such as media freedom, countering hate speech, and addressing regional polarization, for inclusion in the Dialogue. These issues were formally shared with the Commission, ensuring the media’s influential role in building social cohesion is integrated into this critical national process.

### Output 2.4.

Civil society and the media empowered to exercise their rights and enjoy increased participation in political, economic and civic space

#### Amplifying the Voices of Victims and Survivors

With United Nations’ technical support, **three new associations of victims and survivors** of past human rights violations were officially registered in Afar, Gambella, and Tigray regions. The establishment of these associations strengthened victim-centred advocacy, amplifying community voices in ongoing efforts for justice, truth, and reconciliation.

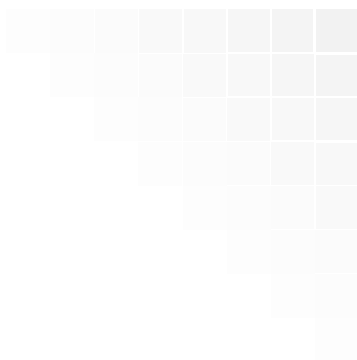
#### Challenging Stereotypes and Promoting Disability Rights

To mark International Human Rights Day 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with MoWSA, EHRC, and OPDs, launched **five videos** addressing harmful stereotypes associated with disabilities. Focusing on rights to health, employment, accessibility, marriage, and SRH, the widely covered media campaign received positive public feedback.

#### Advancing Women’s Economic Empowerment for Peace

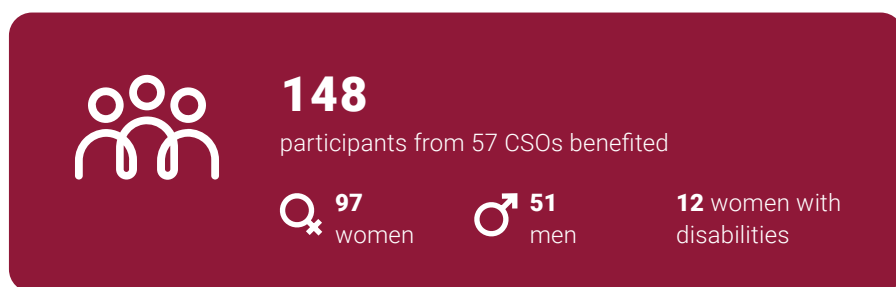
The United Nations supported reintegration and recovery by linking improved livelihoods to social cohesion and long-term resilience. At the woreda level, this included providing business skills training to **1,848 women** in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and Somali Regions. By creating tangible wealth opportunities, these interventions helped demonstrate the positive benefits of peace.

## Strengthening Women's Participation in Politics and Elections

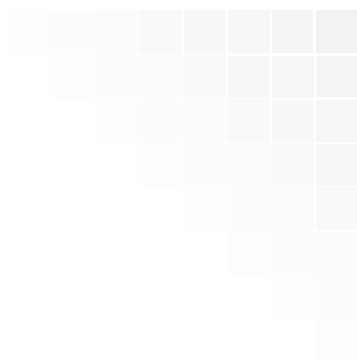


The United Nations enabled the Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations to enhance understanding of inclusive elections, gender equality, and measures to tackle violence against women in politics. This effort benefited **148 participants** (97 women, 51 men, including 12 women with disabilities) from **57 CSOs**.

Furthermore, the United Nations supported the establishment of a **Women Political Participation Community of Practice (CoP)**. The CoP devised and launched a public social media campaign that successfully encouraged the nomination of qualified women candidates, resulting in over 62 nominations for board member positions at the NEBE.

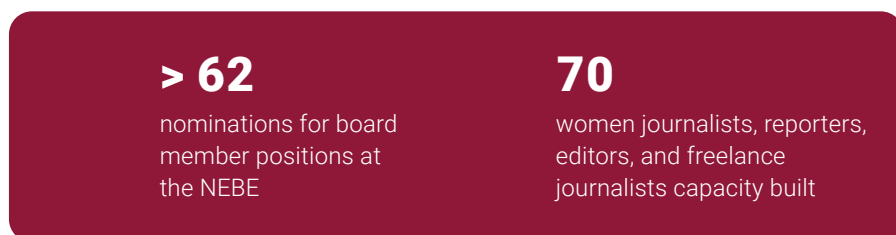


## Promoting Gender-Sensitive Media Reporting



Recognizing the media's role in advancing gender equality, the United Nations collaborated with the Ethiopian Media Women Association to build the capacity of **70 women journalists, reporters, editors, and freelance journalists**. The training enhanced their understanding of gender-sensitive reporting principles, raised awareness of the WPS agenda and UNSCR 1325, and introduced the new Guideline on Gender Sensitive Conflict Reporting for Ethiopian Media.

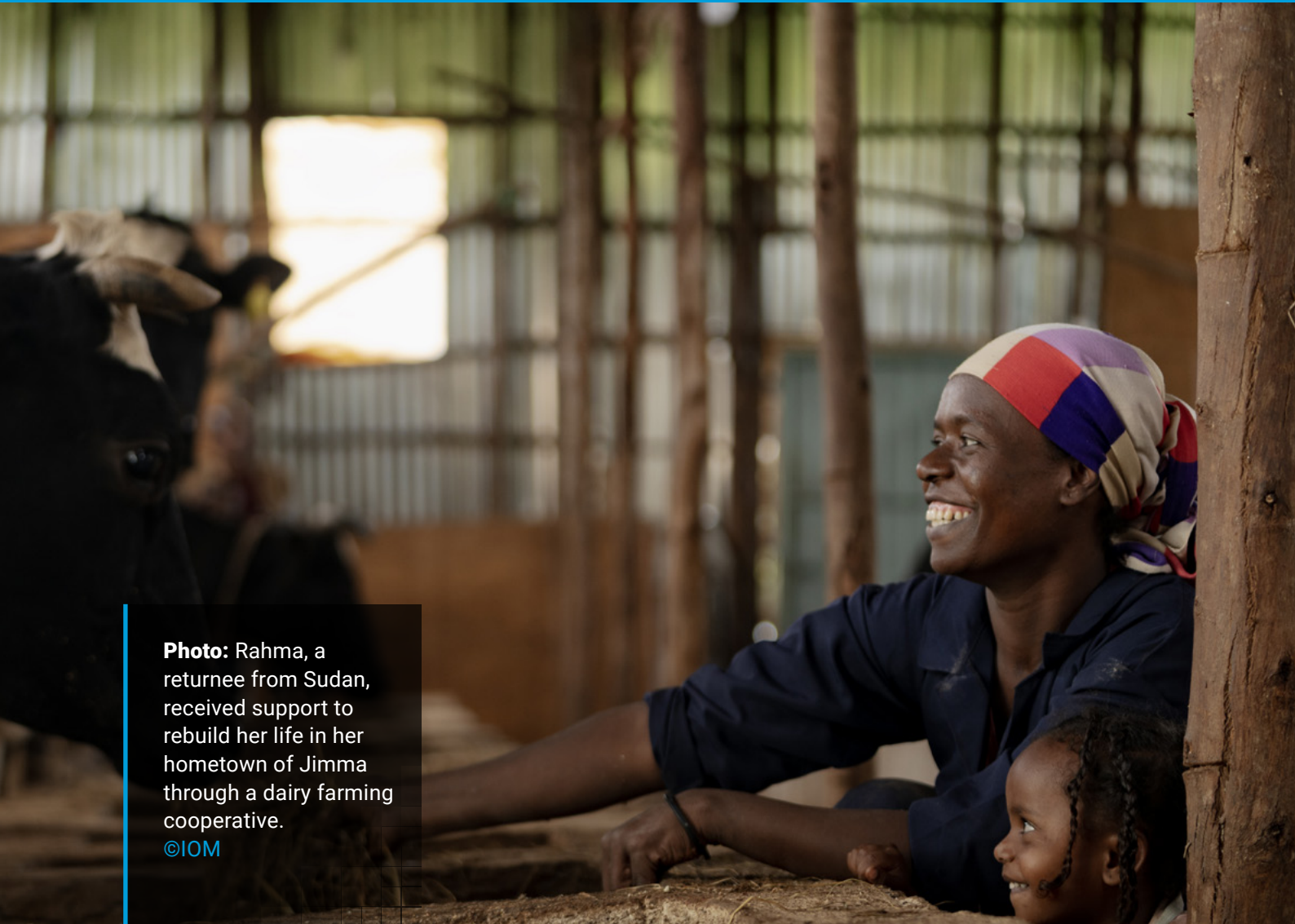
Working alongside the GoE, the United Nations supported critical priorities in justice, democracy, and peace by strengthening institutional capacity, expanding access to justice, and fostering inclusive peacebuilding. The United Nations' role was to provide technical expertise for legal and policy frameworks, coordinate multi-sectoral responses across humanitarian and development actors, and ensure that vulnerable populations, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and conflict-affected communities, were central to recovery and reconciliation efforts. These efforts contributed to restoring public trust and building the foundations for sustainable peace and national cohesion.



## OUTCOME III: PROSPERITY

All people in Ethiopia benefit from an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy.

In 2024–2025, the United Nations supported Ethiopia’s economic transformation by strengthening institutions for decent work, expanding employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth, fostering innovation and green economy solutions and strengthening social protection mechanisms. Key achievements included establishing the country’s first Sector Skills Body in agro-processing, creating over 4,700 jobs through employment-intensive investments, supporting 775 women entrepreneurs in conflict-affected regions to restart their businesses, and operationalizing family-friendly workplace initiatives including on-site childcare facilities that enabled women to return to work. These efforts aimed to build an inclusive, resilient economy that delivers tangible benefits to Ethiopia’s most vulnerable populations.



**Photo:** Rahma, a returnee from Sudan, received support to rebuild her life in her hometown of Jimma through a dairy farming cooperative.

©IOM

### Output 3.1.

Policies, regulations and institutions strengthened to create decent jobs and promote equal access to finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in their productivity and competitiveness

### Establishing Skills Systems for Industry Demand

In partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS) and social partners, the United Nations established and operationalized Ethiopia's **inaugural Sector Skills Body (SSB) in the agro-processing sector**. The SSB's operational guideline and roadmap were designed and validated with stakeholders, and a dedicated secretariat was set up within MoLS to ensure a skilled workforce is available to meet industry demand and create decent jobs.

### Advancing Occupational Safety and Health Governance

Significant progress was made in advancing occupational safety and health (OSH) governance. A pivotal workshop in Adama led to the near finalization of the **national OSH directive and its annexes**, rigorously contextualized through the review of 15 technical documents, including exposure limits, disease classifications, and first aid procedures, ensuring local relevance and regulatory rigor.

### Bridging the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion

To address systemic barriers to women's financial inclusion, the United Nations supported policy interventions through its **Innovative Finance Lab**. This included bolstering the National Bank of Ethiopia's **Network of Ethiopia's Women in Finance** to bridge the gender gap in financial leadership. Furthermore, **260 women entrepreneurs** received enhanced training on business plan preparation, viable product development, and market research with advanced pitching techniques. Seed funding of **\$5,000** was subsequently provided to **10 high-growth women entrepreneurs** from this cohort, enabling them to scale their businesses.

**Photo:** Nimeo Mehamed, a proud shop owner from Gode City in the Somali region, sitting in front of her thriving business.  
©UNDP





**Photo:** UNIDO's support to capacitate leather industries to meet international compliance by implementing environmental, social and governance compliances.  
©UNIDO

### Mobilizing Investment in Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks

The United Nations advanced the development of **Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs)** through targeted investment promotion, capacity building, and institutional strengthening. Key achievements in investment mobilization resulted in **277 investors** expressing formal interest in the IAIPs. To date, **122 have signed agreements, 29 are establishing factories, and 14 investor projects are operational.** Supporting this effort, **28 professionals** (4 women, 24 men) were trained in investment promotion strategies.

To strengthen environmental and social governance, **25 experts** (7 women, 18 men) received specialized training in Environmental and Social Safety Management at the Yirgalem IAIP. In parallel, institutional capacity was enhanced by training **23 officials** (3 women, 20 men) in supervision and technical review and certifying **22 experts** (2 women, 20 men) on the IAIP Implementation Management Platform.

Capacity for agricultural extension was scaled up through a Training of Trainers (ToT) program,

reaching **116 agricultural experts** (18 women, 98 men) across seven zones in Oromia. Furthermore, to promote peer learning, high-level officials from the Amhara Region conducted an experience-sharing visit to operational parks in the Sidama region.

Service delivery was bolstered by the official inauguration of **One-Stop Service Centers** at the Yirgalem and Bulbula IAIPs, streamlining administrative support for investors. To enhance Ethiopia's global agro-industrial linkages, **16 representatives** from the Ministry of Industry and IAIP enterprises participated in the **Macfrut 2025 expo**, gaining exposure to advanced technologies, packaging solutions, and international market opportunities.

Working in close partnership with the Government, the United Nations provided technical expertise in skills development, investment promotion, and environmental governance, while coordinating across multiple sectors to ensure that economic growth translates into decent jobs and inclusive opportunities for women and youth.



**Photo:** ILO Women Leadership Development Programme transforms careers in Ethiopia's garment and textile sector.  
©ILO

### Output 3.2.

Improved access to decent jobs, employment and livelihood opportunities in formal and informal sectors, particularly for youth and women

### Creating Jobs through Employment-Intensive Investments

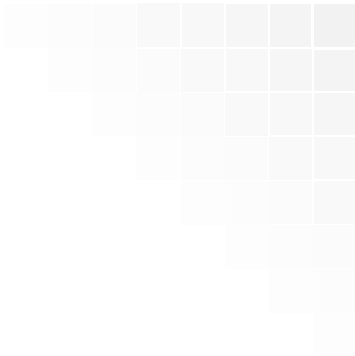
The United Nations implemented targeted initiatives to create jobs and strengthen livelihoods. In Kebrebeayah, the construction of a **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) center, water ponds, and a milk cooling facility** under an employment-intensive investment programme created 4,757 jobs, with complementary power and water upgrades ensuring functionality.

### Promoting Entrepreneurship and Youth Enterprise

Entrepreneurship was vigorously promoted through multiple channels. A **Business Plan Competition** engaged **6,000 people**, with **60 enterprises** awarded start-up support. Parallel to this, a **youth-to-youth fund** enabled **1,700 young entrepreneurs** to launch or improve their businesses. In the Somali region, the dairy value chain was strengthened through improved feed and stable output, while a Business Incubation Centre provided gender-sensitive training for women entrepreneurs.

Specific focus was placed on women's economic empowerment. At the woreda level, **1,848 women** in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and Somali Regions were provided with business skills training, directly linking improved livelihoods to the benefits of social cohesion and peace.

## Advancing Family-Friendly Workplaces



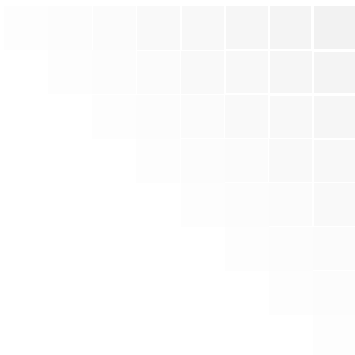
A major achievement was the advancement of family-friendly workplaces to strengthen the resilience of working women. The United Nations established and furnished **on-site childcare facilities** for a leather cluster MSME in Modjo, which employs 123 youth (80% women). **Two workplace daycare centres** were inaugurated at Ethio-Impact Manufacturing PLC and Yirgalem Addis Textile Factory in Addis Ababa, enabling **twenty women to return to work**. The renovation of a daycare at the Cerealia Agro-Processing Factory, using the Care@Work model, reached 80% completion. Childcare facilities at the Yirgalem and Bulbula IAIPs were also fully furnished and opened.



**Photo:** After losing her job due to lack of childcare, Woinshet returned to work thanks to an ILO-supported daycare at Yirgalem Addis Textile Factory. The daycare is transforming lives—keeping skilled women employed and helping families thrive.

©ILO

## Addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Workplace



A comprehensive, multi-faceted approach was employed to address GBV in IAIPs. This included conducting training sessions for the criminal justice system and IAIP stakeholders, including a training for Bulbula IAIP involving **25 trainees** (17 women, 8 men); developing, finalizing, and sharing **SOPs and guidelines** for SGBV prevention, mitigation, and response in IAIPs; and holding GBV awareness sessions, including one as part of the “16 days of activism” campaign with **28 participants** (16 women, 12 men).



**Photo:** Ayalnesh Zerihun:  
From Secretary to  
Entrepreneur.  
©UNDP

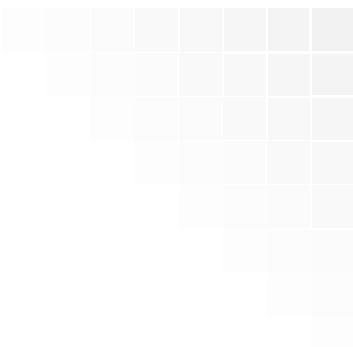
A detailed case study from the **Addis Ababa Abattoirs Enterprise** demonstrates the impact of this work. Following a United Nations-led gender analysis and capacity-building training for **105 women employees**, the company established a Gender Working Group. The results have been tangible:

- A childcare service was established after employees raised the issue through the Working Group.
- **Four women employees** have qualified for flaying jobs, a role previously dominated by men, breaking gender-based job segregation.
- Confidence among women employees to report GBV incidents has significantly increased, with corrective measures being taken against perpetrators.
- The company has incorporated gender equality into its human resource policy and ten-year strategic plan.

Through these interventions, the United Nations demonstrated how decent work goes beyond job creation, it requires safe, inclusive workplaces where women can thrive. By providing technical expertise on gender-responsive workplace policies, facilitating public-private partnerships, and ensuring that vulnerable groups access employment opportunities, the United Nations helped translate economic growth into tangible improvements in people’s lives.

### Output 3.3.

Access to innovation, new technology and finance is increased, fostering an inclusive and diversified green economy



### Establishing Creative Hubs for Innovation

The United Nations fostered an innovative economy through the establishment and support of **Creative Hubs**. The hub in Addis Ababa, now relocated to the renovated Arada Post Office building, hosts **338 active members** (55% women). It has delivered **22 practical training sessions** for **679 participants** on topics like digital art and business development and organized **13 networking events** with **337 participants**. In Jimma, a provisional hub was launched, registering **137 (55 women and 82 men) members** on its opening day and equipped with IT tools, 3D printers, and a backup generator.

### Connecting Ethiopian Artisans to Global Markets

To enhance international market readiness, **ten selected Ethiopian artisans** received training on marketing, branding, and digital promotion. Following this, **five women artisan companies** were supported to participate in the **Artigiano in Fiera international trade fair in Milan**, where they successfully attracted international clients for future orders.

54

women-led ICT businesses were provided a tailored incubation and boot camp programme by the UN

\$4,000

seed grant given to 10 women

\$388,922

mobilized in the “Rebuild HER Business” crowdfunding initiative

775

women in the conflict-affected regions of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray to restart their enterprises with a \$500 grant

2,800

women-owned/led MSMEs affected by various crises were sustained and revitalized

## Empowering Women-Led Digital and Informal Enterprises

In the digital sector, the United Nations provided a tailored incubation and boot camp programme to **54 women-led ICT businesses**, with **10 receiving a seed grant of \$4,000**. The “**Rebuild HER Business**” crowdfunding initiative mobilized **\$388,922** and has to date enabled **775 women in the conflict-affected regions of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray** to restart their enterprises with a \$500 grant and business development support. Furthermore, over **2,800 women-owned/led MSMEs** affected by various crises were sustained and revitalized through financial and non-financial services, with grant support extended to **600 informal businesses** in Somali and Amhara regions.

## Strengthening National Development Strategies

To strengthen national development strategies, the United Nations supported the GoE and social partners in developing a **Five-Year Digital Inclusion Strategy, a National Work Ethics Strategy, and a “Right at Work for Youth” guide** for displaced populations. Efforts also included assessing digital economy opportunities in Afar and Somali regions and updating the **National Youth Volunteers Policy** to be more inclusive of displaced youth.

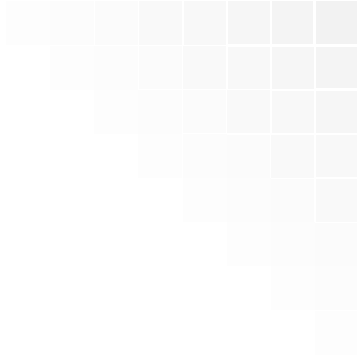
By providing seed funding, facilitating access to international markets, and supporting policy frameworks for digital inclusion, the United Nations ensured that innovation and technology serve as engines of inclusive growth, particularly for women and youth in underserved and conflict-affected regions.

**Photo:** Mamitu is a young woman who works in the greenhouse taking care of seedlings.

©UNDP

### Output 3.4.

Social protection programmes and systems strengthened to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people



The United Nations supported Ethiopia to strengthen social protection programmes and systems as a core pillar of resilience building, particularly for populations exposed to conflict, climate shocks, and economic stress. Interventions focused on enhancing the **shock responsiveness, inclusiveness, and adaptive capacity** of national and community based social protection mechanisms, in alignment with the nexus approach.

#### Expansion of Shock Responsive Cash Transfer Mechanisms

A key achievement was the expansion of **shock responsive cash transfer mechanisms**, which enabled timely support to households affected by climate and conflict related shocks. Through collaboration with government partners, **55,521 households** received cash assistance, including **disability responsive top ups for over 10,000 families**, strengthening the equity and inclusiveness of social protection responses. These interventions helped vulnerable households meet basic needs, prevent negative coping strategies, and stabilize livelihoods during periods of acute stress.

#### Promoting Community-based Social Protection Mechanisms

At the community level, the United Nations strengthened **community based social protection and resilience mechanisms**, including savings, credit, and self help structures that complement national systems. Women led savings and credit cooperatives, including those established in climate affected regions, expanded access to financial services for women and marginalized groups, reinforcing household level resilience and economic security.

**Photo:** In Gelabo kebele of Konso, hillsides are being revived through indigenous terracing and reforestation practices, once shared by ancestors and now brought back to life. Families now farm land they never thought accessible.

©UNDP



**Photo:** Ali Yimer, a smallholder farmer in Siba village in South Wollo, is one of the many farmers strengthening their resilience through the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative . Through tools like climate insurance, savings, and improved farming practices, Ali is building a more secure future for his family despite the growing risks of drought and climate shocks.

©WFP



### Output 3.5.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated into development plans and budget allocations at the national and subnational level, with adequate financing mobilized

### Strengthening SDG Monitoring and Reporting

The United Nations provided coordinated **technical and financial support to the GoE** to strengthen national monitoring and evidence based reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A key milestone was the United Nations' support to the **preparation of Ethiopia's VNR 2025**, which assessed progress, challenges, and emerging priorities across the SDGs. Through this process, the United Nations supported stakeholder consultation and analysis to strengthen national capacities for SDG reporting and reinforce Ethiopia's engagement with global accountability mechanisms.

To further institutionalize SDG integration into planning and monitoring systems, the United Nations mobilized resources and provided technical assistance for the **development and operationalization of the Ethiopia Goal Tracker**, an online SDG monitoring and visualization platform. The platform consolidates data from national systems and sector institutions, enabling real time tracking of SDG indicators and progress at national and subnational levels. By improving access to disaggregated, timely, and user friendly data, the Goal Tracker enhances transparency, supports evidence based decision making, and enables policymakers to better align development plans, sector strategies, and budget allocations with SDG targets.

Through sustained support to SDG reporting, monitoring, and data systems, the United Nations contributed to embedding the 2030 Agenda more deeply into Ethiopia's development planning and financing frameworks, laying the groundwork for accelerated and accountable progress toward the SDGs.

## OUTCOME IV: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adopted climate change

In 2024–2025, the United Nations strengthened national resilience and environmental sustainability by bolstering government systems and scaling up climate-smart solutions. Key efforts enhanced disaster risk management, with updated early warning systems reaching over 2.7 million people and contributing to a sustained reduction in disaster-related fatalities. The United Nations expanded climate-resilient livelihoods, providing insurance to safeguard the assets of over 250,000 farmers and pastoralists against climate shocks. Support for environmental protection brought over 42,000 hectares of land under improved management and strengthened Ethiopia’s ability to monitor forests and report on environmental commitments. To reduce pollution and promote clean energy, the United Nations supported the development of a National Clean Cooking Roadmap and demonstrated scalable renewable energy projects. Furthermore, sustainable urban development was advanced through proactive settlement planning and securing land tenure for vulnerable households, helping cities integrate climate considerations into their growth.

### Output 4.1.

The Government of Ethiopia’s climate and disaster risk management capacity at the national and subnational levels is strengthened to build resilience

### Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Information Systems

The United Nations significantly enhanced national and sub-national capacities for disaster risk management. A key achievement was the updating of the **Woreda Disaster Risk Profile (WDRP) methodology**, which streamlined indicators from 116 to 45 to improve efficiency and actionability. This revised framework was operationalized through United Nations’ support to the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) in developing or updating **25 WDRPs**. To ensure consistency and quality, a methodological note was developed to guide all future updates, a process that was successfully piloted in two woredas where the new profiles are now directly informing disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and contingency planning.

Further strengthening national systems, the United Nations supported EDRMC in updating its **DesInventar disaster information management platform**. This upgrade enables systematic analysis of disaster trends and has allowed the Government to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Sendai Framework. Institutional capacity was bolstered through targeted training on Post Disaster Needs Assessment and disaster risk management mainstreaming for EDRMC and sectoral staff. A dedicated national workshop, organized with the Ethiopian Statistical Service, capacitated **31 participants** (8 women, 23 men) from key agencies on disaster and climate change statistics, improving data collection and reporting for international frameworks.


### Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Early Action

The United Nations supported a systemic upgrade of Ethiopia's early warning capabilities, focusing on impact-based forecasting and community-level dissemination. This included backing the implementation of the national **Impact-Based Multi-Hazard Early Warning Early Action Systems Roadmap**, which involved capacity-building training for **653 government staff** at federal and regional

levels. This comprehensive support has enhanced anticipatory responses and contributed to a **sustained reduction in disaster-induced mortality, with no such fatalities recorded during the reporting period.**

A critical achievement was the establishment of **early warning committees** to disseminate drought forecasts across Somali, Oromia, and South Ethiopia regions. These committees played a vital role in ensuring timely advisories reached communities, enabling anticipatory action. The reach was extensive: in 37 woredas in Somali, **3,400 committee members** disseminated messages reaching **1.4 million people**; in 24 woredas in Oromia, **1,400 members** reached **1.3 million people**; and in 37 woredas in South Ethiopia, **7,555 members** were mobilized.

To centralize coordination, the United Nations supported the establishment and operationalization of a **multi-hazard Early Warning Situation Room** within EDRMC. This facility is designed to link with national and regional coordination centres, significantly enhancing Ethiopia's capacity for anticipatory action and cross-border disaster management.

A photograph of a smiling man, identified as a farmer in Jimma, Ethiopia, standing in his agroforestry farm. The farm is lush with various types of trees and plants, including papaya trees with green fruit visible in the foreground. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and a grey jacket. The background shows more greenery and a clear sky.

**Photo:** A farmer in Jimma, Hussien, stands on his farmland where avocado, banana, pineapple, and papaya now flourish — part of a pilot agroforestry initiative in Jimma and three other Ethiopian cities aimed to improve income generation and promote livelihood diversification while protecting, restoring, and sustainably using ecosystems.

©UNEP

**Photo:** Keneni Kibret is a seedling seller in Adama. She is among the many individuals benefiting from the fattening business supported by UNDP.  
©UNDP

**247,400**

smallholder farmers were insured under Area Yield Index insurance, safeguarding

**USD 43.6 million**  
agricultural investments

**800,000**

farmers across three regions to access market-driven insurance

**4,300**

pastoralists were provided index-based livestock insurance in Somali

**USD 1.8 million**  
assets protected

**6,216**

smallholder farmers received improved seeds to cultivate over 1,100 hectares

**USD 1.6 MILLION**

loans facilitated for livelihood diversification to

**11,889**  
households

**46**

solarized water supply pumping schemes replacing diesel generators

**300**

women-led green energy enterprises were trained in clean cooking production and business development creating access for



## Building Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Green Energy Solutions

The United Nations directly bolstered the resilience of farmers and pastoralists through scalable financial instruments and climate-smart infrastructure. In Amhara Region, **247,400 smallholder farmers** were insured under Area Yield Index insurance, safeguarding **USD 43.6 million** in agricultural investments. This model was expanded via a public-private partnership to enable **800,000 farmers** across three regions to access market-driven insurance. Parallel efforts in the Somali Region provided index-based livestock insurance to **4,300 pastoralists**, protecting **USD 1.8 million** in assets, while **6,216 smallholder farmers** received improved seeds to cultivate over 1,100 hectares.

Resilience was further strengthened through infrastructure and financial inclusion. In the Somali Region, the construction of **11 water ponds, 11 dykes, and irrigation schemes** for 1,110 hectares of land provided critical resources for communities and livestock. In Amhara, a credit guarantee fund facilitated **USD 1.6 million in loans** to **11,889 households** for livelihood diversification, while **71,124 households** in VSLAs mobilized **ETB 50.2 million** in collective savings. In Tigray, post-conflict recovery support enabled over **26,000 people** to cultivate more than 1,200 hectares, producing over 2,893 metric tons of food.

In the energy sector, the United Nations advanced green solutions by solarizing **46 water supply pumping schemes**, replacing costly diesel generators and improving operational efficiency. Furthermore, to integrate gender equality into the energy transition, **300 women-led green energy enterprises** were trained in clean cooking production and business development, creating access for **10,000 women-led households**.

## Mainstreaming Gender and Climate Adaptation Across Sectors

The United Nations ensured that climate action was inclusive and integrated into key sectors. In the Somali Region, this involved developing comprehensive strategies to mainstream gender into the regional government's climate planning, budgeting, and programming. A landmark achievement was the establishment and legal registration of the Barwaako Savings and Credit Cooperative, which has grown to 470 women members with collective savings of ETB 600,000, demonstrating active participation in financial resilience-building. To support women farmers, a technical working group was established to adapt 70 video-based training modules on climate-smart agriculture to the local linguistic and cultural context.

Critical work was also undertaken to integrate climate adaptation into public health and national planning. The United Nations supported the MoH to develop and endorse Sub-National Health

Climate Change Adaptation Plans for all 12 regions and two city administrations, training over 500 professionals to implement them. Simultaneously, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Planning and Development to ensure children's specific climate-related vulnerabilities are integrated into the nation's updated climate plans, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable.

Through these interventions, the United Nations provided technical expertise in disaster risk management, early warning systems, and climate finance; facilitated public-private partnerships to scale climate insurance; and ensured that vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and pastoralists, were central to climate adaptation efforts. These efforts contributed to building a more resilient society capable of anticipating and responding to climate shocks.

### Output 4.2.

Normative frameworks, institutions and systems strengthened for conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of the use of biodiversity and natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability for development

#### Mainstreaming Climate Action into National and Local Planning

The United Nations supported the integration of climate action into Ethiopia's core development strategies. At the sub-national level, this involved implementing transformative climate actions in micro-watersheds across Amhara, Harari, and Oromia to boost agricultural productivity. A ToT program equipped **38 participants** from national and regional institutions with skills in climate-smart agribusiness, with a focus on empowering women through small-ruminant and poultry production.



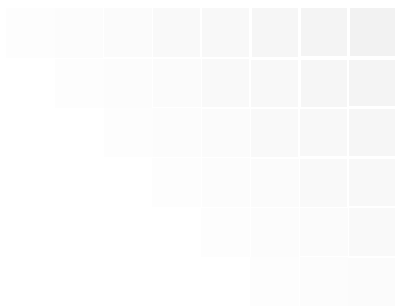
Substantial progress was made in embedding climate priorities into local governance. Capacity-building support led to the preparation of **12 Woreda development plans** that integrate climate action in Tigray, Benishangul/Gumuz, Sidama, and Afar, involving **124 regional and woreda experts** (25 women, 99 men). Furthermore, a ToT on business case development for **34 experts** (4 women, 30 men) in Oromia, Amhara, and Harari resulted in the identification and drafting of investment-ready business plans for three climate-resilient value chains: irrigation-based vegetable production, sheep and goat development, and poultry production.

To build a future-ready workforce, the United Nations supported the revision of the national TVET strategy to embed green skills and a just transition. Capacity building was provided to **37 TVET trainers** (3 women) on green TVET, and **41 women entrepreneurs** were trained on sustainability and waste management.

**Photo:** Yohannes Desta irrigates his field using a water pump provided through the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), helping farmers access reliable water for agriculture. Since 2018, WFP and partners have supported smallholder farmers in 16 woredas with climate-resilient livelihood solutions—including natural resource management, weather-index insurance, and financial services—to strengthen their ability to withstand drought and food insecurity.

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## Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Systems



The United Nations significantly strengthened national systems for monitoring forests, greenhouse gases, and land degradation. Through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - REDD+ initiative, the institutional and technical capacity of stakeholders was enhanced to manage the **National Forest Monitoring System**. Key achievements include the establishment of a **Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Data Sharing Protocol**, the updating of the national forest inventory in five regions to provide Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) compliant data, and the equipping of regional MRV laboratories in Amhara, Central Ethiopia, and Tigray.

Furthermore, the United Nations built Ethiopia's capacity to fulfil international environmental reporting obligations. This enabled the country to produce a comprehensive, high-quality **2022 UNCCD National Report**, demonstrating measurable progress towards land degradation neutrality. Support was also provided to apply IPCC software and tools for improved greenhouse gas inventory management, enhancing national tracking and mitigation planning.

## Conserving Biodiversity through Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks



The United Nations advanced the governance and sustainability of Ethiopia's **Biosphere Reserves (BRs)** as platforms for conservation and sustainable development. Key milestones include agreements to mainstream BR priorities into local government planning, the initiation of periodic reviews for existing BRs, and the identification of potential new sites to improve ecological representation. Efforts also focused on promoting eco-tourism in five BRs and increasing youth involvement in their management.

Concurrently, the United Nations accelerated the development of **UNESCO Global Geoparks** in Eastern Africa, including Ethiopia. Six countries, including Ethiopia, agreed on a shared roadmap for geopark development. Over **100 regional stakeholders** were trained in governance and nomination processes, and potential Ethiopian sites in the Rift Valley, Afar, and Bale Mountains were catalogued, positioning geoparks as tools for conservation and sustainable economic growth.

## Sustainable Land and Forest Management

**42,730.88**

hectares under improved land use

**12,943.28**

hectares of natural forest now managed by seven newly established Participatory Forest Management cooperatives

**27,939.6**

hectares of small-scale farmland are under restoration

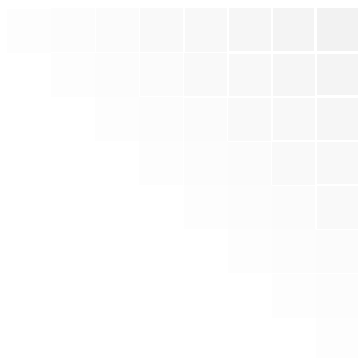
**12,144**

of degraded communal land developed

The United Nations supported extensive landscape restoration and sustainable land management practices across the country. These efforts have brought **42,730.88 hectares** under improved land use. This includes **12,943.28 hectares** of natural forest now managed by seven newly established Participatory Forest Management cooperatives, with an additional 2,000 hectares slated for community-led governance. A further **27,939.6 hectares** of small-scale farmland are under restoration through erosion control and agroforestry, and restoration plans have been developed for 12,144 hectares of degraded communal land.

Specific community-level interventions included the plantation of 1,000 trees in Kebribeyah Woreda (Somali Region), engaging 208 community members (124 women, 84 men) through a cash-for-work scheme; the distribution of firewood and seedlings in Benishangul/Gumuz, benefiting 8,497 refugee households and 15,000 host community members; the planting of over 3,000 fruit trees in 16 Kebeles of Tigray, primarily in rehabilitated schools; and the construction of 23 dykes and 13 livestock water ponds in the Somali region, rehabilitating over 2,300 hectares and providing water for 5,748 households.

## Livelihoods and Inclusive Natural Resource Governance



The United Nations bolstered the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists by linking them to sustainable value chains and improving post-harvest management. In the Somali Region, **19 cooperatives** with **1,192 members** (572 women, 620 men) were established and linked to agro-input suppliers. Support extended to training **2,897 pastoralist households** on improved fodder production and establishing **20 livestock marketing cooperatives**.

Major support was provided to the coffee sector, benefiting **125,617 direct beneficiaries** (59.3% women) across four regions. A total of **1,607.3 hectares** of old coffee gardens were rejuvenated, and **11,180 smallholder farmers** received improved seedlings and pruning materials. To ensure long-term sustainability, coffee nursery sites were established across seven woredas, growing **2.5 million seedlings**.

A critical focus was ensuring women's participation in climate resilience. In the Somali Region, the United Nations developed three gender-responsive climate adaptation tools in collaboration with local partners: a Community Action Plan, Strategies for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Action, and a Toolkit for Women and Girls' Participation. These tools are enhancing the capacity of local institutions to implement inclusive climate adaptation and ensure women have equitable access to resources and decision-making.

By providing technical expertise in climate-smart agriculture, environmental monitoring, and biodiversity conservation; facilitating community-led natural resource management; and ensuring gender-responsive approaches, the United Nations helped Ethiopia strengthen its environmental governance and build sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations.



**Photo:** Lemlem G/Kidan, a 35-year-old mother of three, picks fresh Swiss chard from her backyard garden in Tsgea village, Raya Azebo, Tigray Region. The smallholder farmers initiative she is a part of is designed to help farmers improve food security, boost nutrition, and build stronger local food systems and value chains.

©WFP



**Photo:** UNOPS, on behalf of the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands, and with the support of the World Bank, has successfully established a Liquid Nitrogen Plant in Benishangul Gumuz boosting livestock productivity and enhancing agricultural resilience.

©UNOPS

### Output 4.3.

Institutions and systems strengthened, and solutions adopted to reduce pollution and increase access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy

#### Strengthening Governance and Compliance with International Environmental Agreements

The United Nations significantly enhanced Ethiopia's capacity to manage hazardous chemicals and substances in line with its international commitments. Under the Stockholm Convention, national capacity was strengthened to review and update the **second National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**. A national training workshop equipped **53 participants** from federal and regional environmental authorities with the skills to undertake comprehensive POPs inventories, ensuring effective data collection and management. This effort has positioned Ethiopia to ensure compliance with its international obligations and advance safer chemical management.

Critical progress was also made in implementing the **Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**. The United Nations supported the preparation of a **draft Kigali Implementation Plan** to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which has been submitted for review. This milestone was underpinned by multi-stakeholder consultations engaging **147 participants** (42 women, 105 men) from government, the private sector, and academia, strengthening national capacity for assessing HFC alternatives and integrating gender considerations into planning.

To enforce these protocols, a fully operational **licensing and quota system for Hydrochlorofluorocarbon imports** was established, with quotas issued to five major importers. Enforcement capacity was bolstered by training **19 customs officers** (3 women, 16 men) in detecting illegal trade and **60 refrigeration technicians** (30% women) in safely adopting alternatives.



**145KW**

solar-powered irrigation system was completed

**750**

smallholder farmers were provided year-round irrigation



**300 M<sup>3</sup>**

institutional waste-to-energy biogas facility was established

**< 46,000**

people recieved electricity and clean cooking solutions

**75%**

clean cooking access by 2035 set as target

**USD 3.38 Billion**

identified as needed by a comprehensive investment plan

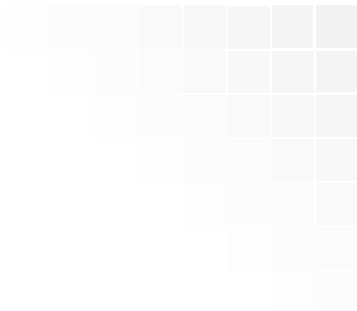
## Access to Clean and Renewable Energy

The United Nations demonstrated the transformative potential of renewable energy through two scalable projects. In Sidama, a **145kW solar-powered irrigation system** was completed, providing **750 smallholder farmers** (40% women) with year-round irrigation, increasing household incomes and reducing reliance on rain-fed agriculture. In Wolaita Zone, a **300 m<sup>3</sup> institutional waste-to-energy biogas facility** was established, delivering electricity and clean cooking solutions to over **46,000 people**, which reduces air pollution and lowers health risks.

To create a national framework for clean energy access, the United Nations supported the development of Ethiopia's first **National Clean Cooking Roadmap**. This strategic document sets a target of **75% clean cooking access by 2035** and is supported by a comprehensive investment plan identifying **USD 3.38 billion** in financing needs. An accompanying Advocacy Strategy was launched to build public awareness, and a high-level technical working group was established to ensure institutional coordination.

Furthermore, the United Nations worked to accelerate energy access by de-risking investment in mini-grids. A comprehensive **Investment Risk Analysis** identified key barriers to private sector investment. In response, **ten banks and microfinance institutions** were trained to develop financing products tailored to mini-grid businesses. A Digital Strategy for Mini-Grids was also completed to enable data-driven planning and improve operational efficiency.

## Promoting Gender Equality and Sustainable Solutions in the Energy Sector



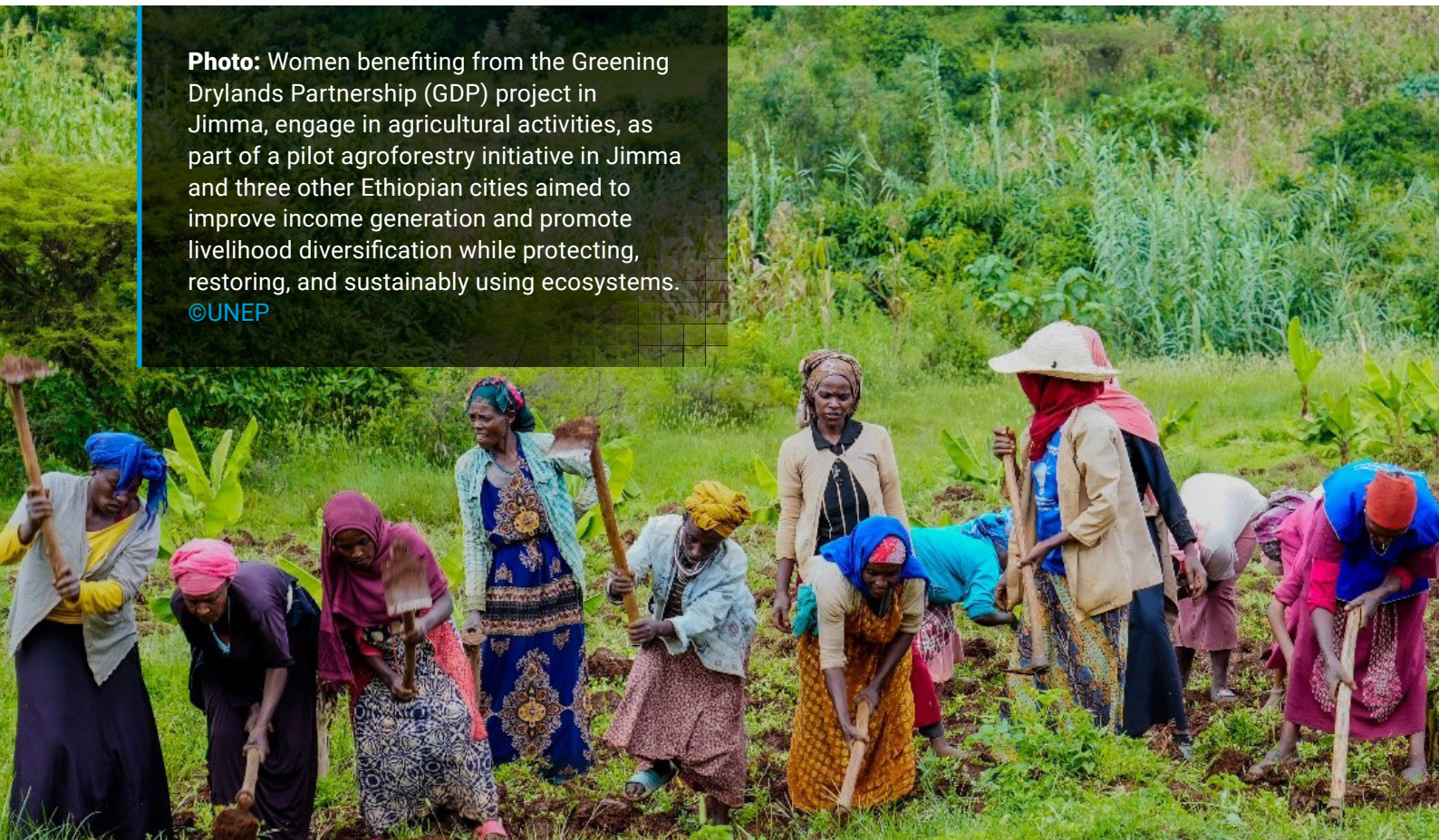
The United Nations empowered women as key agents in the energy transition. A total of **320 women entrepreneurs** were trained in green entrepreneurship, market development, and business promotion to enhance their participation in the renewable energy value chain. To institutionalize this approach, a **Gender and Energy Advocacy Strategy** was developed, and a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group, co-chaired by the MoWE and comprising 25 institutions, was established to mainstream gender-responsive approaches in the sector.

The United Nations also advanced sustainable, solar-powered solutions to ensure reliable access to water. In humanitarian and development contexts, **72 diesel-powered water systems** were upgraded to solar energy. This initiative provides over **581,000 people** with reliable and climate-friendly water access while reducing carbon emissions and operational costs. These efforts were complemented by groundwater mapping and strengthened watershed management to ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources.

By providing technical expertise in clean energy policy, facilitating access to climate finance, and ensuring gender-responsive approaches, the United Nations helped Ethiopia advance its energy transition, reduce pollution, and build sustainable systems that benefit vulnerable populations.

**Photo:** Women benefiting from the Greening Drylands Partnership (GDP) project in Jimma, engage in agricultural activities, as part of a pilot agroforestry initiative in Jimma and three other Ethiopian cities aimed to improve income generation and promote livelihood diversification while protecting, restoring, and sustainably using ecosystems.

©UNEP



#### Output 4.4.

Governance and planning capacities strengthened at national and sub-national levels to promote sustainable urban development, especially in primary and secondary cities/towns



**34,000**

Sudanese refugees supported in the Ura refugee site in Benishangul/Gumuz



**3,900**

people served in the Awbare and Goryawol IDP sites



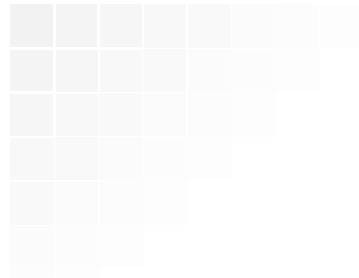
**96,000**

people settled in Qoloji IDP site will benefit from the transformation of the site into an urban center

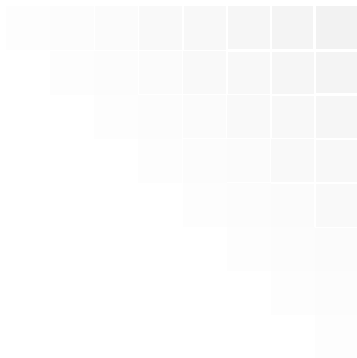
**Photo:** A South Sudanese refugee receives food assistance at the Yolkwuol distribution center in Ethiopia's Gambella region. Tens of thousands of people continue to flee ongoing conflict in South Sudan, arriving in urgent need of safety and humanitarian support. ©WFP

#### Proactive Settlement Planning and Urban Integration

The United Nations has advanced a strategic shift from reactive humanitarian assistance to proactive urban planning to achieve durable solutions for displaced populations. Key milestones include the completion of spatial profiling for the **Ura refugee site in Benishangul/Gumuz**, supporting the integration of **34,000 Sudanese refugees**. Settlement planning was also finalized for the **Awbare and Goryawol IDP sites**, serving **3,900 people**, with work underway on six additional sites that will benefit **14,361 people** by mid-2026. In a significant step towards urbanization, the United Nations is collaborating with regional authorities to transform the **Qoloji IDP site**, home to approximately **96,000 people**, into a formally recognized urban centre.

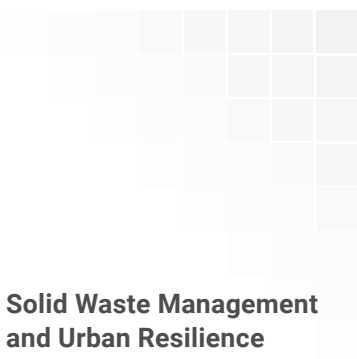


## Land Tenure Security and Housing Rights



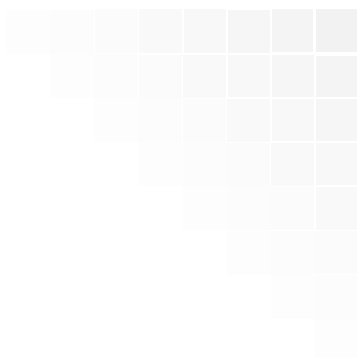
The United Nations strengthened the capacity of **119 government experts and officials** (16 women, 103 men) on Housing, Land, and Property rights, focusing on legal frameworks, tenure security, and protection for vulnerable groups. To translate this into action, the **Social Tenure Domain Model** was piloted in Somali and Oromia regions. This innovative approach supports land registration and recognizes occupancy rights in areas with weak formal land administration. As a direct result of these efforts, which included awareness sessions and participatory mapping, **339 households** in Beyahow and Mieso received ownership certificates, enhancing tenure security and fostering informed decision-making by local authorities.

## Informing Urban Policy with Data on Climate and Mobility



To guide future-proof urban development, the United Nations generated critical evidence on the interlinkages between mobility, climate change, and environmental degradation in three secondary cities: Asaiyta, Melka Werer, and Gode. This research has informed policy directions for integrating climate mobility into local planning. Practical tools and training manuals were produced and handed over to local governments, enabling them to systematically incorporate climate mobility considerations into their urban development processes.

## Solid Waste Management and Urban Resilience



The United Nations supported significant advances in solid waste management and urban cleanliness through large-scale community mobilization and institutional capacity building. In Addis Ababa and Jigjiga, over **500,000 volunteers** participated in World Cleanup Day campaigns, promoting public awareness under the theme “Let my waste be the wealth of all of us.”

To improve systemic waste management, the United Nations provided the **Waste Wise Cities Tool** to enhance landfill practices in more than **42 towns** across eight regions. A **USD 1 million** investment from the Government of Japan was mobilized to rehabilitate the **Dire Dawa dumpsite**, significantly improving environmental safety and waste infrastructure. Furthermore, a multi-layered vulnerability assessment was completed in Debre Berhan, identifying three urban hotspots where communities face compounded risks from urbanization, biodiversity loss, and climate change, providing a data-driven basis for targeted resilience interventions.

By providing technical expertise in urban planning, land tenure security, and climate mobility; facilitating proactive settlement planning for displaced populations; and supporting systemic waste management solutions, the United Nations helped Ethiopia’s cities integrate climate considerations into their growth and build resilience for vulnerable urban populations.

Working in close partnership with the Government, the United Nations strengthened national resilience and environmental sustainability by enhancing disaster risk management systems, expanding climate-resilient livelihoods, and promoting clean energy solutions. The United Nations' role was to provide technical expertise in early warning systems, climate finance, and environmental monitoring; facilitate public-private partnerships to

scale climate insurance and renewable energy; and ensure that vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, pastoralists, and displaced communities, were central to climate adaptation and environmental governance efforts. These efforts contributed to building a more resilient society capable of anticipating and responding to climate shocks while protecting Ethiopia's natural resources for future generations.

## 2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

### SUPPORT TO INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

In the 2024–2025 period, the United Nations accelerated efforts to transition Ethiopia's food systems from emergency-led responses to sustainable, market-oriented pathways. A centerpiece of this effort is the **SMART Food Systems initiative**, launched in 2024 across the Somali, Sidama, and Southern regions. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the United Nations established two regional food systems governance structures to improve multi-stakeholder coordination. To date, the initiative has provided **2,300 farmers and 80 SMEs with digital market information and financial service access**, with women making up 45% of the beneficiaries. This shift ensures that smallholder farmers can move beyond subsistence toward commercialization and climate resilience.

To address the digital dimensions of social cohesion, the UNCT Task Force on Hate Speech partnered with the EMC and youth organizations to launch a series of high-impact webinars. Reaching over **200 participants per session**, these engagements moved beyond dialogue to technical capacity building, resulting in the integration of media and information literacy into draft national education curricula and strengthening the monitoring capabilities of local civil society organizations.

In the financial sector, the United Nations and the National Bank of Ethiopia operationalized the **Innovative Finance Lab**. A major milestone in early 2025 was the selection of a fund manager for the **Enterprise Financing Facility**. By combining direct investments with a "Fund of Funds" structure, the Lab is successfully attracting commercial banks and private investors to provide capital to MSMEs and startups that were previously deemed "unbankable," thereby diversifying Ethiopia's investment landscape.

## Multistakeholder Partnerships to Catalyse Green Finance and Humanitarian-Development Coordination

### Strengthening Early Warning and Peacebuilding Infrastructure

The United Nations supported the operationalization of **Early Warning Networks**, which improved alert and information flows from hard-to-reach areas to identify potential conflicts before escalation. In Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, the United Nations facilitated the establishment of **Regional Peace Forums**, bringing together **33 government sectors and C**

- **Digital Relief:** An e-voucher system for relief distribution in partnership with Nippon Electric Company.
- **Urban Resilience:** Japanese “Fukuoka” landfill methods for waste management in Dire Dawa.
- **Education:** Digital teacher training platforms through UNESCO-International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa.
- **Agriculture:** Real-time data systems to improve crop monitoring and food security.

Furthermore, in March 2025, the United Nations launched the **€15 million “Advancing Climate-Resilience and Transformation in African Coffee” programme** with support from the Italian Government. This partnership targets Ethiopia’s most vital export sector, implementing climate-resilient practices that protect the livelihoods of coffee farmers while aligning with global sustainability standards.

### Support to South-South and Triangular Partnerships

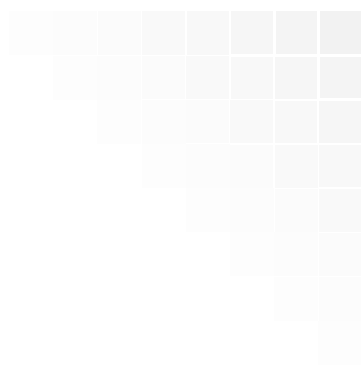
The United Nations played a catalytic role in Ethiopia’s digital governance transformation by facilitating a South-South partnership with Azerbaijan. This collaboration culminated in the launch of the Mesob Center, Ethiopia’s first digital one-stop shop for government services.

Since September 2024, the United Nations has provided the essential “soft infrastructure”, including technical advisory, system design, and capacity building for the Federal Civil Service Commission, to operationalize the center. By consolidating services from multiple federal institutions into a single platform, the **Mesob Center** has reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks, enhanced transparency, and improved citizen access to essential services, directly contributing to the Home-Grown Economic Reform 2.0 and the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy.

## 2.4. RESULTS OF WORKING TOGETHER: COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

### UNITED NATIONS OPERATING AS ONE

#### Enhancing Efficiency and Cost Avoidance Through Common Services



The United Nations in Ethiopia is effectively implementing its **Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 (2020–2025)** through the coordinated efforts of the Operations Management Team (OMT) and its five working groups. This strategy serves as a critical framework to enhance coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness in support of the Cooperation Framework.

In 2024, a review of **41 common services**, spanning administration, finance, human resources, ICT, and logistics, achieved a significant **cost avoidance of USD 1.8 million**. This result was delivered despite challenges such as the devaluation of the Ethiopian Birr and contractual delays. These savings were redirected back into programmatic delivery, ensuring that a higher percentage of donor funds directly reach beneficiaries rather than being absorbed by operational overhead.

Building on this success, the United Nations has planned **46 common services** for implementation in 2025, which are projected to achieve an estimated cost avoidance of **USD 2.5 million** by year-end.

**Photo:** Women in Danan kebele, receiving an early warning information by community advocates in Somali region of Ethiopia as part of an integrated early warning programme to help manage the risks posed by climate hazards to food security.

©WFP



## Strategic Adaptation and Planning for Future Operations

The OMT has strategically refined its service portfolio for 2025, introducing new collaborative initiatives to meet evolving needs. Key additions include:

- A **Common Internship Programme** and a **Joint Mentoring Programme** to strengthen talent pipelines and staff development.
- Initiatives for **Knowledge Sharing and Reasonable Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities** to enhance workplace inclusion.
- A **Joint Business Continuity Plan** and an **ICT Disaster Recovery Plan** to strengthen operational resilience in a volatile context.

Concurrently, several services were discontinued to streamline efforts, including harmonized travel allowances and protocol services, which have been reassigned or phased out based on cost-benefit analysis.

As 2025 is the final year of the current BOS, preparations are underway to develop a new **Business Operations Strategy for 2026–2030**. This new strategy will be aligned with the next Cooperation Framework and will build upon the lessons and achievements of BOS 2.0 to ensure the United Nations continues to operate effectively and as one in Ethiopia.

## UNITED NATIONS COMMUNICATING AS ONE

### Developing a Unified Strategic Vision for Communications

The United Nations in Ethiopia developed a **joint communications strategy** to accompany the new 2025–2030 Cooperation Framework. Formulated through a participatory process with the United Nations Communications Group, the strategy positions the United Nations as an authoritative voice on development and underscores its contribution to the SDGs. To ensure relevance, partner perspectives were incorporated through a perception survey. Development of this strategy is ongoing, with finalization expected to provide a cohesive framework for all United Nations external communications.

### Outreach Through Targeted Products and Campaigns

The United Nations significantly increased its visibility by producing and disseminating a wide range of strategic communications products. A key achievement was the publication of a **bimonthly newsletter featuring more than 70 stories**, all aligned with the Cooperation Framework’s pillars of People, Peace, Planet, and Prosperity. This content was distributed via the United Nations website and social media platforms, alongside press releases, videos, and photos.

Global campaigns and international days were leveraged to promote core United Nations values and the 2030 Agenda. Major observances included the **International Day of Peace**, the **16 Days of Activism against GBV**, and **International Women’s Day**. In line with the principle of “Leaving No One Behind,” the United Nations also advanced disability-inclusive communications, particularly around the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**.

### Expanding Digital and Media Partnerships

The United Nations expanded its digital footprint during the reporting period, resulting in measurable growth in followers and broader audience reach across Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and LinkedIn. This was achieved by sharing compelling programme stories, coverage of United Nations Resident Coordinator engagements, and SDG-related content across social platforms.

Building on the **United Nations Strategy on Hate Speech**, the United Nations also coordinated webinars with civil society, academia, and youth networks. These initiatives promoted constructive dialogue and responsible reporting, countering divisive narratives and fostering a more inclusive public discourse.

## INTEGRATING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### HDP Nexus

The United Nations in Ethiopia made significant progress in advancing the **HDP nexus** in line with the United Nations reform priorities. Efforts were directed toward strengthening coherence, integration, and efficiency to maximize sustainable impact across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding interventions.

Progress was made in strengthening institutional mechanisms to drive the nexus. **The Nexus Technical Working Group**, under the Nexus Accelerator Group, played a central role in developing the **National Nexus Strategic and Operational Framework**, and producing technical methodologies, tools, and processes.

A major milestone was achieved in **February 2025**, when the **Government of Ethiopia formally adopted the National Nexus Strategic and Operational Framework**. This Framework provides clear national guidance on the nexus, defines practical steps for implementation, and establishes a shared roadmap for aligning humanitarian response, development planning, and peacebuilding efforts. The United Nations' technical convening and advisory role was instrumental in ensuring this Framework reflects both international best practice and Ethiopia's unique context.



# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

## Establishing an Evidence Base for Inclusive Programming



The United Nations in Ethiopia achieved a major milestone by completing the country's **first-ever United Nations-wide LNOB assessment in 2024**. This rigorous, data-driven analysis mapped systemic exclusion patterns, with a particular focus on women, youth, persons with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS. By combining quantitative data with qualitative insights from marginalized communities, the assessment identified critical gaps in accessibility, participation, and service delivery.

Its findings directly informed the new **Cooperation Framework 2025-2030**, with **12 concrete recommendations integrated** to strengthen inclusivity across all programming. Examples include: prioritizing disability-accessible infrastructure in all construction projects, ensuring youth representation in governance programming, and integrating HIV/AIDS services into primary health care platforms.

## Strengthening Coordination for Coherent Action



To ensure sustained and coherent action, the **LNOB Working Group** and its thematic workstreams on gender, youth, disability, and HIV/AIDS have enhanced their coordination. This platform now serves as the central mechanism for aligning LNOB efforts across all United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes in Ethiopia. Its main roles include monitoring the implementation of LNOB commitments under the Cooperation Framework, facilitating joint advocacy with government and partners, and ensuring LNOB principles are integrated into United Nations planning, budgeting, and reporting to prevent duplication of efforts.

## Advancing National Policies for Disability Inclusion

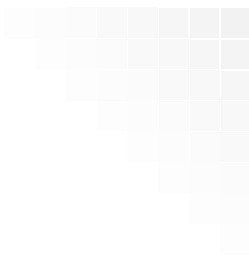


The United Nations partnership with the **MoWSA** yielded significant progress in national policy development. This collaboration resulted in the creation of a **National Plan of Action for Disability Inclusion for 2024-2033**, which will serve as a roadmap for government, OPDs, donors, and the United Nations. Furthermore, the drafting of a **new Ethiopian Disability Policy** was finalized after extensive consultations with federal and regional stakeholders. Both documents are poised for implementation once formally adopted by the Council of Ministers.

To operationalize these frameworks, the United Nations systematically mapped OPDs across Ethiopia. This initiative identified and catalogued **314 OPDs**, recording their contact details, focus areas, and office locations to enhance future communication and collaboration between the United Nations and the disability rights movement.

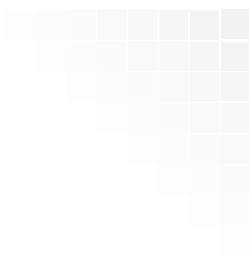
# PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

## Expanding National and Regional Coordination



The United Nations provides pivotal leadership by coordinating the **Ethiopia Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network**, which offers oversight and guidance to regional networks across the country. The Network's membership grew significantly, increasing by roughly one-third from 128 in mid-2024 to **163 by the end of June 2025**. This expansion includes a strong partnership base of **90 local organisations**, ensuring a broad and inclusive foundation for PSEA efforts nationwide.

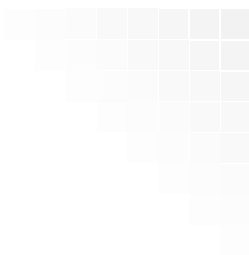
## Building Capacity and Raising Public Awareness



The United Nations systematically built the capacity of partners and staff while launching extensive public awareness campaigns. In 2024, PSEA trainings were cascaded across various regions, reaching **10,824 staff from partner organizations**. To ensure communities could access vital information, the United Nations reached **6,588,076 individuals** through diverse awareness-raising activities, including posters, billboards, leaflets, radio announcements, and loudspeaker messages.

A key enabler for this outreach was the translation of the core PSEA training package into **four local languages: Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrinya, and Somali**. This ensured that critical safeguarding information was accessible to a wider audience.

## Strengthening Reporting and Investigation Systems



The United Nations took concrete steps to strengthen the systems for reporting and investigating allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). A critical achievement was the scaling up of the **confidential reporting hotline to operate in six languages**, with hotline staff trained to receive and refer allegations professionally.

To improve the quality of investigations, the United Nations held a joint leadership session with partners on managing SEA investigations and established a dedicated **community of practice for trained investigators**. These concerted efforts are reflected in growing public engagement. The PSEA Network's online resource hub saw a **2.5-fold increase in page visits** compared to 2023, with the core training package being the most accessed resource, demonstrating a rising demand for and engagement with PSEA materials.

## 2.5. LESSONS LEARNED AND EVALUATIONS

The United Nations in Ethiopia operated during the July 2024 – June 2025 period in a complex environment shaped by overlapping humanitarian needs, climate-related shocks, and evolving political and economic dynamics. Conflict, drought, disease outbreaks, and macroeconomic pressures repeatedly tested the resilience of communities and strained service delivery systems. These operational realities were compounded by a constrained funding landscape, where declining donor resources and competing global priorities limited the ability to scale essential services. Systemic

challenges, including coordination gaps between federal and regional authorities, bureaucratic processes, and persistent data limitations, further shaped the implementation context.

Despite these challenges, the United Nations demonstrated adaptability and delivered significant results across all Cooperation Framework outcomes. This period also provided critical insights that are shaping the design and implementation of the next Cooperation Framework cycle.

### KEY LESSONS LEARNED

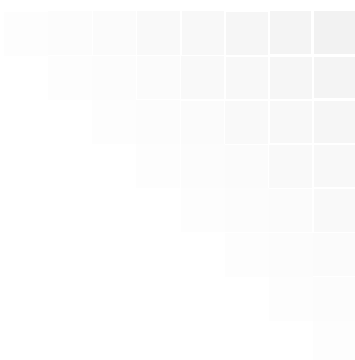
#### Building Local Resilience Through Integrated Programming



A central lesson from this period is the critical importance of moving beyond facility-based, sectoral service delivery toward **integrated, community-centered approaches**. The United Nations learned that sustainable outcomes, particularly in volatile contexts, depend on directly empowering communities and strengthening multisectoral systems at the primary level.

Converging programmes proved to be the most effective pathway to reach those furthest behind. For example, linking cash transfers with health, nutrition, and protection services created a more resilient safety net than standalone interventions. This integrated approach requires a **dedicated frontline workforce** and **deep community engagement** to foster local ownership and ensure services are accessible even when external systems are disrupted.

#### Strengthening Systems Over One-Off Interventions

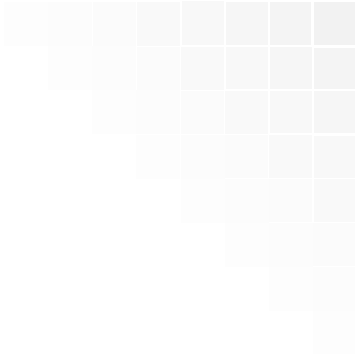


The United Nations recognized that sustainable impact depends on **embedding capacity within national institutions** rather than relying on one-off trainings or short-term technical assistance. Continuous mentoring, structured career pathways, and institutional strengthening proved far more effective in ensuring that progress is maintained despite staff turnover or political transitions.

Examples include the establishment of the **National Nexus Strategic and Operational Framework**, the **National Plan of Action for Disability Inclusion**, and the **Mesob Center's digital governance platform**, all of which represent systemic shifts rather than project-based interventions.

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## Strategic Partnerships as Catalysts for Scale



Strategic partnerships were identified as essential for overcoming systemic bottlenecks and achieving scale. This includes:

- **Public-private partnerships** to address supply chain gaps and leverage private sector innovation (e.g., the Innovative Finance Lab and Enterprise Financing Facility).
- **Coordinated advocacy** to enhance domestic resource mobilization and align national budgets with development priorities.
- **South-South and triangular cooperation** to access proven models and technologies from peer countries (e.g., the Azerbaijan-Ethiopia digital governance partnership).

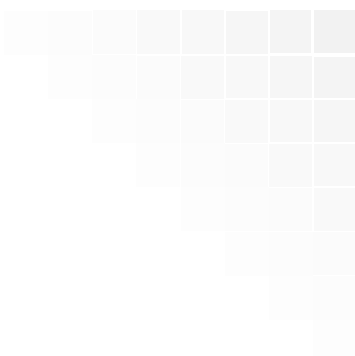
These partnerships enabled the United Nations to serve as a **convener and catalyst**, bringing together government, private sector, civil society, and international actors to co-create solutions.

## Meaningful Inclusion of Women, Youth, and Marginalized Groups



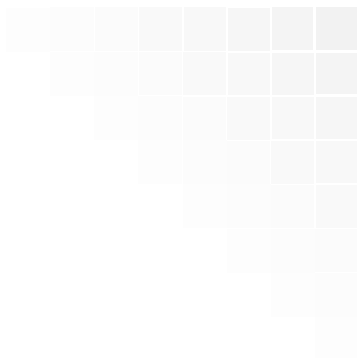
The United Nations learned that sustainable and legitimate interventions require **meaningfully including women, youth, and marginalized groups as decision-makers**, not just beneficiaries. The **LNOB assessment** and subsequent integration of 12 recommendations into the new Cooperation Framework demonstrated that intentional, data-driven inclusion strategies can shift programming from “reaching” marginalized groups to “empowering” them to shape their own development pathways.

## Aligning Local Action with National Priorities and Global Frameworks



Aligning local interventions with national priorities and global frameworks proved essential for securing political endorsement, government ownership, and sustained funding. Pilot projects and small-scale innovations created vital **entry points for policy influence and scaling**. For example, the SMART Food Systems initiative in three regions is now informing national food systems policy, while the HDP Nexus Framework has been formally adopted as national guidance.

## Navigating Funding Constraints Through Catalytic Interventions



In a constrained funding environment, the United Nations learned to prioritize **catalytic interventions** that unlock additional resources, strengthen systems, or create enabling conditions for scale. This includes:

- Mobilizing innovative finance (e.g., the \$2 billion green financing roadmap).
- Leveraging bilateral partnerships to deploy advanced technologies (e.g., Japan's \$15 million contribution).
- Achieving operational efficiencies that redirect savings to programmatic delivery (e.g., \$1.8 million cost avoidance through common services).

This approach requires risk-aware strategies, joint programming, and a redoubled commitment to resource mobilization to deliver as one.

## FINDINGS FROM THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK EVALUATION (2020–2025)

The findings from the independent evaluation of the Cooperation Framework 2020–2025 affirmed and deepened these lessons derived from programme implementation.

The evaluation highlighted that the Framework's strong alignment with national priorities and adaptability to crises were foundational to its relevance and enabled the United Nations to remain a trusted partner to the GoE throughout a turbulent period. However, the evaluation also identified critical areas for improvement:

**Siloed programming** limited the potential for integrated, cross-sectoral impact, despite strong individual agency results.

**Insufficient funding** constrained the ability to achieve ambitious outcomes, particularly in the People and Planet pillars

**Weak data systems** hindered evidence-based decision-making, real-time course correction, and credible reporting on results.

Based on these findings, the evaluation recommended that the next Cooperation Framework cycle place **greater emphasis on:**

**Integrated coordination mechanisms** to break down silos and enable true joint programming.

**Investing in robust monitoring systems** and evidence generation to support adaptive management and accountability.

**Securing sustainable financing** through diversified sources, innovative instruments, and stronger government cost-sharing to bolster national ownership and ensure lasting results.

These recommendations have been directly integrated into the design of the **2025–2030 Cooperation Framework**, which prioritizes the HDP nexus, joint resource mobilization, and a results-based management approach anchored in real-time data and evidence.

## 2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Ethiopia stands at a critical juncture in its development trajectory. Despite significant progress in poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and social service delivery, the country faces compounding challenges, including economic volatility, climate shocks, protracted humanitarian crises, and fiscal constraints, that threaten to reverse hard-won gains. Traditional reliance on official development assistance (ODA) is no longer sustainable: bilateral aid is declining, humanitarian appeals are chronically underfunded, and global geopolitical shifts are redirecting donor priorities.

For the 2025-2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the estimated total funding needs across the next five years stands at US \$4.6 billion. However, against this funding need, as of June 2025, the available funding sits at just over US \$562 million, leaving a US\$ 4 billion funding gap for programmes, projects and interventions to achieve the ambitious agenda laid out in the Cooperation Framework. In response to increasing funding constraints facing United Nations agencies, not just in Ethiopia, but globally, the United Nations Funding Compact imperative calls for United Nations agencies to reduce fragmentation, leverage pooled funding, and catalyse non-traditional finance, principles that this strategy operationalizes.

OECD reports show flatlining aid flows to Least Developed Countries, with Ethiopia experiencing a 12% drop in bilateral commitments since 2020. These trends have been exacerbated by declines in ODA from the largest development partners in the US and EU. These shifts have had significant impact on funding priority challenges in the country. For example, over 70% of Ethiopia's United Nations-coordinated humanitarian appeals for 2025 remain underfunded, forcing stopgap measures that undermine resilience.

Public debt exceeds 50% of Gross Domestic Product, limiting fiscal space for social spending while recurrent droughts cost Ethiopia \$1–2B annually, diverting funds from development.

Ethiopia must diversify financing sources, strengthen domestic revenue, and attract private investment to sustainably finance its development priorities.

Despite policy commitments to industrialization and economic diversification, Ethiopia's private sector remains underdeveloped, informal, and concentrated in low-productivity sectors. As a result, the private sector has played a limited role in driving inclusive growth, innovation, and job creation. This stagnation threatens Ethiopia's ability to transition from a state-led, aid-dependent model to a market-driven economy.

Anchored by the goal to shift from ODA-dependency to a domestic/private-financed development model, this strategy positions the United Nations support to Ethiopia's transition through:

- **Domestic Resource Mobilization:** Tax reforms, agro-industrialization, and diaspora bonds.
- **Private Sector Leverage:** Local procurement, SME development, and Environmental, Social and Governance-aligned investment.
- **Climate Finance:** Carbon markets, Green Climate Fund/Global Environment Facility access, and resilient infrastructure.
- **Innovative Partnerships:** South-South cooperation, digital tools, and CSO-led solutions.

**Table 1:** 2024 – 2025 Funding Overview per Outcome Area<sup>1</sup>

Outcome	Total required resources in USD		Available Budget in USD	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
People	1,586,149,018.00	1,095,220,046.00	843,315,854.00	710,523,381.00
Democracy, justice and peace	90,267,301.00	123,269,807.00	19,712,641.00	97,479,908.00
Prosperity	81,334,026.00	90,486,991.00	66,105,921.00	56,933,242.00
Environmental protection and climate change	181,429,312.00	146,385,335.00	107,358,490.00	140,716,947.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,939,179,657.00</b>	<b>1,455,364,203.99</b>	<b>1,036,492,906.00</b>	<b>1,005,655,503.00</b>



<sup>1</sup> UNINFO Data <https://uninfo.org/v2/location/170/program-ming/analysis/sdgs> accessed on September 2025.



**Photo:** Emergency food assistance to families displaced by earthquake near Ethiopia's Afar Region, providing life-saving support to communities who lost their homes and livelihoods. ©WFP

# UNCT FOCUS 2025 – 2026

## A NEW CHAPTER IN ETHIOPIA'S DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

Building on the results and lessons of the 2020–2025 Cooperation Framework, the United Nations in Ethiopia has adopted the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2030)**. Signed in June 2025, this Framework represents a strategic evolution in the UN-Government partnership, informed by a rigorous Common Country Analysis, the independent evaluation of the previous Framework, and extensive consultations with the GoE, civil society, the private sector, youth, vulnerable groups, and development partners.

The Framework is fully aligned with Ethiopia's **TYDP (2021–2030)**, the **Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development**, and **Africa Agenda 2063**. It reflects a shared commitment to accelerate progress on the SDGs while addressing Ethiopia's most pressing development challenges and unlocking opportunities for sustainable transformation.

At its core, the new Framework embodies a bold vision: an equitable, peaceful, and prosperous Ethiopia, driven by self-reliance and resilience, where no one is left behind, and sustainable development is achieved for all by 2030.

### Five Transformative Results: A Measurable Commitment to 2030

Through a consultative process with the Government, the UNCT identified **five transformative results** that will anchor the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and guide resource mobilization, joint programming, and accountability. These are not aspirational statements, they are **measurable commitments by 2030**:

01

#### End humanitarian dependency

for the most vulnerable by fostering resilience through robust systems at all levels.

02

#### Build sustainable food systems

value chains, and livelihoods to promote self-reliance and food security.

03

#### Create three million jobs

with a focus on opportunities for youth and women to drive inclusive economic growth.

04

**Digitize and modernize** all aspects of development programming and service delivery to enhance efficiency, innovation, and impact.

05

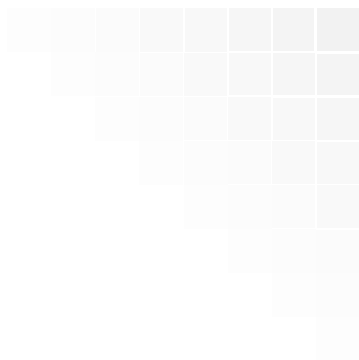
**Uphold shared values** by leaving no one behind, ensuring targeted support for women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

These transformative results are **intertwined and mutually reinforcing**: progress on one accelerates progress on others. For example, creating jobs and livelihoods is a key pathway to ending aid dependency; sustainable food

systems underpin resilience and nutrition; digitalization enhances service delivery and inclusion; and LNOB ensures that gains are equitable and sustainable.

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### A New Way of Working: Integrated, Catalytic, and Results-Focused



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To achieve these transformative results, the Cooperation Framework adopts a **bold and innovative approach**, focusing on SDG transitions and enablers to deliver large-scale, transformative impact. The United Nations is shifting its business model by:

- **Pooling United Nations expertise and capacities at strategic entry points** to drive catalytic progress, rather than working in isolated silos.
- **Addressing the root causes of humanitarian needs** to foster resilience and self-reliance, with the **HDP Nexus** as a core operating approach.
- **Supporting Ethiopia in accessing development financing** and reducing dependency on development and humanitarian aid through innovative financing solutions, including the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), climate finance, and private sector engagement.
- **Leveraging innovative solutions and partnerships** to accelerate progress, recognizing that the United Nations cannot achieve these results alone but can catalyze, influence, and support national and partner efforts at scale.
- **Embedding equality, inclusion, and sustainability** as cross-cutting principles in all interventions, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Central to this new approach is the development of **flagship joint programmes**, transformative, catalytic initiatives that cut across outcomes, contribute to multiple transformative results, and embody the highest standards of national ownership, accountability, and sustainability. These joint programmes will be the primary vehicle through which the United Nations collectively contributes to the Cooperation Framework, ensuring coherence, maximizing synergies, and avoiding fragmentation.

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### 2025–2026 Key Priorities: Catalytic Interventions for Transformative Impact

The Joint Work Plan for July 2025 – December 2026 prioritizes catalytic interventions that build on the momentum of 2024–2025 while addressing critical gaps identified through the evaluation and lessons learned process. The following priorities reflect a strategic focus on **systems strengthening, inclusive growth, resilience, and ending humanitarian aid dependency**.


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### Operationalizing the Framework: Strategic Enablers

To ensure the Cooperation Framework delivers on its ambitious agenda, the UNCT has initiated the development of key operationalization strategies:

- **UNCT Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy:** To diversify funding sources, leverage innovative finance, strengthen government cost-sharing, and support Ethiopia's transition from ODA dependency to sustainable domestic and private financing.
- **UNCT Communication Strategy:** To position the United Nations as a credible, authoritative voice on development and ensure coherent messaging across all agencies.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan:** To enable real-time, evidence-based decision-making, adaptive management, and accountability for results.

These strategies will be finalized by the end of 2025, ensuring the United Nations is equipped to deliver as one from the outset of the new Framework.



**Photo:** Community members gather in support of the new solar project at Kebbele Primary School. Partnership and local engagement light the way to better education.

©UNDP

# OUTCOMES

## Outcome I: Peace and Governance

Ethiopia's 2026 elections represent a critical moment for democratic consolidation and social cohesion. The United Nations will support an **enabling electoral environment** through coordinated resource mobilization, technical assistance, and capacity building. Priority will be given to promoting **women's equal participation and representation** throughout the entire electoral cycle, ensuring that women are not only voters but also candidates, election officials, and decision-makers.

To strengthen accountability and civic space, the United Nations will support **civil society and citizen engagement**, ensuring rights holders can exercise their political rights and hold institutions accountable. This includes strengthening human rights institutions, advancing transitional justice processes, and fostering social cohesion in conflict-affected areas.

Recognizing the complex operating environment, the United Nations will implement **risk-aware programming** by strengthening conflict monitoring, early warning systems, and mitigation measures across all agencies to ensure programming does not inadvertently exacerbate tensions. This approach is central to the HDP Nexus and to building the foundations for sustainable peace and development.



**Photo:** IOM Ethiopia provides comprehensive post-arrival assistance to Ethiopian returnees, including shelter, counseling, medical screenings, and transportation to their hometowns.

©IOM

## Outcome II: Economy, Food Security, and Energy

Ethiopia's economic transformation and the goal of creating **three million jobs by 2030** depend on strengthening **economic governance, institutional capacity, and macroeconomic management**. The United Nations will advance evidence generation, support programmes that address debt sustainability, and undertake macroeconomic monitoring to guide stakeholders. This includes supporting the Government in implementing the **INFF** to mobilize domestic resources and reduce reliance on external assistance.

Job creation is central to inclusive growth and ending aid dependency. The United Nations will strengthen **policy, systems, institutional capacity, and access to finance, markets, and technology** to create decent and inclusive jobs. This includes enhancing private sector engagement, scaling skills development and apprenticeship programmes for youth, and supporting enterprise development, particularly for women, youth, and marginalized groups.

To achieve **food security and self-reliance**, the United Nations will improve access to and adoption of inputs, technologies, and practices for the production of nutrient-dense food. By building **sustainable food systems, value chains, and livelihoods**, the United Nations will enable communities to produce surplus food, improve household economies, and transition from humanitarian assistance to resilience and self-reliance.

Recognizing energy as a foundation for economic growth and Ethiopia's potential as a renewable energy leader, the United Nations will enhance **access to affordable and clean energy** through increased finance for energy investment, private sector engagement, and adoption of diverse new energy technologies, including off-grid and renewable solutions. Ethiopia's abundant renewable energy resources, including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, present a unique opportunity to build a green economy and attract climate finance.

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**1** NO POVERTY



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### Outcome III: Social Development

Sustainable development and resilience depend on strong national systems. The United Nations will strengthen **national systems for delivering primary health care, education, and social protection** through robust governance and legal frameworks that ensure quality, equity, and accountability.

Priority will be given to ensuring **equitable access to quality health services**, including reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and routine immunization. In education, the focus will be on promoting **inclusive education for out-of-school children**, particularly girls, children with disabilities, and those affected by conflict or displacement.

To enhance **crisis preparedness and resilience**, the United Nations will scale up Education in Emergencies, build shock-responsive health systems, and link safety nets to emergency support. This HDP Nexus approach ensures that humanitarian and development interventions are mutually reinforcing and that systems can withstand and recover from shocks.

The United Nations will also build **household resilience** by promoting the **“Cash Plus” model**, which connects social protection with financial inclusion, skills development, and income-generating activities. This integrated approach enables families to move from dependency to self-reliance, directly contributing to the transformative result of ending humanitarian aid dependency.



**Photo:** Debesu Belete, a mother of six, resumes her traditional craft after returning from the Sekota IDP camp. Rebuilding her business marks the first step toward restoring her family's stability.

©UNDP



**Photo:** Bayush Tamene, 28, a mother of 2 in Tsagibji, Amhara, fetching water from a recently constructed water point.  
©UNDP

**13** CLIMATE ACTION



#### Outcome IV: Environmental Sustainability, Resilience, and Preparedness

Climate change is an existential threat to Ethiopia's development gains and a major driver of humanitarian needs. The United Nations will scale up **climate resilience** by promoting climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions, and resilient health and WASH systems that can withstand climate shocks.

Sustainable natural resource management is critical for long-term prosperity and resilience. The United Nations will strengthen **governance, conserve biodiversity, and promote sustainable land and water use**, ensuring that natural resources are managed equitably and sustainably.

To protect vulnerable communities and reduce humanitarian needs, the United Nations will expand **early warning and data systems** to cover all hazard-prone areas and ensure last-mile communication reaches the most vulnerable. This includes strengthening institutional capacity for **climate action, disaster risk management, and reporting** on national and international commitments.

The United Nations will also foster a **green economy** by engaging the private sector and supporting policies that integrate climate and environmental priorities across all sectors, creating green jobs and sustainable livelihoods. This includes supporting Ethiopia to access climate finance and leverage its renewable energy potential to attract investment and build a climate-resilient economy.

**15** LIFE ON LAND



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





**Photo:** ILO Women Leadership Development Programme transforms careers in Ethiopia's garment and textile sector.

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## Outcome V: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Young People

Gender equality is both a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for sustainable development. It is also a cross-cutting enabler of all five transformative results. The United Nations will strengthen **legal and institutional systems** by advancing gender-responsive policies, fortifying accountability frameworks, and enhancing comprehensive services to prevent and respond to GBV and harmful practices.

Sustainable change requires transforming **discriminatory norms and behaviours**. The United Nations will engage communities and deploy strategic communication to promote gender equality and positive social change, ensuring that women and girls can exercise their rights and reach their full potential.

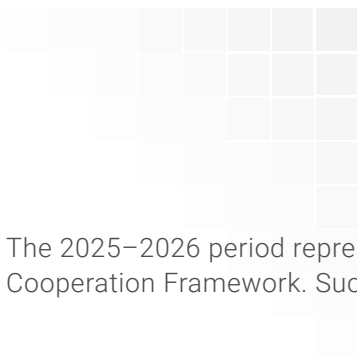
Economic empowerment is central to gender equality and to the goal of creating three million jobs. The United Nations will promote **economic and leadership empowerment** by expanding economic opportunities for women and youth and ensuring the inclusive participation of marginalized groups in all decision-making processes, from household to national level.

Finally, the United Nations will build **sustainable capacity and coordination** by strengthening multi-sectoral platforms and investing in the institutional strength of local, especially women-led, organizations. This ensures that progress on gender equality is owned, driven, and sustained by Ethiopian institutions and communities.



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## Delivering as One: The United Nations' Unique Value and Commitment



The United Nations brings a unique comparative advantage to Ethiopia. With the **largest UNCT in the world, comprising 28 agencies** with diverse expertise and mandates, the United Nations has unparalleled convening power, technical depth, and impartiality. This positions the United Nations as a trusted partner in Ethiopia's development journey, capable of addressing complex, multidimensional challenges and fostering collaboration across government, private sector, civil society, and international partners.

The 2025–2026 period represents a critical transition as the United Nations operationalizes the new Cooperation Framework. Success will depend on:

**Joint programming and flagship initiatives** that pool United Nations expertise at strategic entry points and contribute to multiple transformative results.

**Coordinated resource mobilization** that leverages innovative financing, strengthens government cost-sharing, and reduces ODA dependency.

**A persistent focus on results,** guided by robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems.

**The HDP Nexus as a core operating approach,** ensuring that humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts are aligned and mutually reinforcing.

**National ownership and partnership,** recognizing that the United Nations cannot achieve these results alone but can catalyze, influence, and support national and partner efforts at scale.

The United Nations is committed to working as one, with the Government of Ethiopia, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and communities, to deliver transformative, sustainable impact for all Ethiopians. Together, we have the opportunity to transform challenges into opportunities, foster resilience, and create a future where all Ethiopians can thrive in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable Ethiopia by 2030.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BOS</b>	Business Operations Strategy
<b>BR(s)</b>	Biosphere Reserve(s)
<b>CPDC(s)</b>	Community Peace Dialogue Committee(s)
<b>CSO(s)</b>	Civil Society Organization(s)
<b>EDRMC</b>	Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission
<b>EHRC</b>	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
<b>EMC</b>	Ethiopia Media Council
<b>ENDC</b>	Ethiopia National Dialogue Commission
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GoE</b>	Government of Ethiopia
<b>HDP</b>	Humanitarian Development Peace
<b>HFC</b>	Hydrofluorocarbon
<b>IAIP(s)</b>	Integrated Agro Industrial Park(s)
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDP(s)</b>	Internally Displaced Person(s)
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoLS</b>	Ministry of Labour and Skills
<b>MoWE</b>	Ministry of Water and Energy
<b>MoWSA</b>	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
<b>MSME(s)</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprise(s)
<b>MSHG(s)</b>	Mother Self-Help Group(s)
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan

<b>NEBE</b>	National Election Board of Ethiopia
<b>NGO(s)</b>	Non-governmental organization(s)
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>OPD(s)</b>	Organization(s) of Persons with Disabilities
<b>OSC</b>	One Stop Centre
<b>OSH</b>	Occupational Safety and Health
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>POP(s)</b>	Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutant(s)
<b>SDG(s)</b>	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>SOP(s)</b>	Standard Operating Procedure(s)
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>SSB</b>	Sector Skills Body
<b>STDM</b>	Social Tenure Domain Model
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>TYDP</b>	Ten Year Development Plan
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WDRP(s)</b>	Woreda Disaster Risk Profile(s)
<b>WPS</b>	Women Peace and Security
<b>YPS</b>	Youth Peace and Security



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Annual Results Report 2024–2025

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