Delivering as One in Ethiopia

The United Nations in Ethiopia: Transforming Ethiopia Together
The symbol አ is the numeral 1 in Amharic script. Amharic is written according to an adapted form of the alphabet originally developed for the ancient Ge’ez language. This is one of the only indigenous alphabets developed in Africa that is still used in the modern day.
Delivering as One in Ethiopia

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“We are committed to becoming a middle-income country by 2025 and distributing the benefits of our growth to all our citizens to help the most disadvantaged and vulnerable out of poverty.”

H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn, Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
Ethiopia is a fast-growing country, in all areas and all sectors of its economy. As clearly outlined in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), we are committed to becoming a middle-income country by 2025 and distributing the benefits of our growth to all our citizens to help the most disadvantaged and vulnerable out of poverty. We are proud to be taking a unique approach to sustainable development to protect the environment and generations to come.

Every country needs to define its own development agenda. The Government of Ethiopia, in strong partnership with the United Nations system, has been taking the leading role in the development process over the past few decades. Over this period, the UN’s assistance has become increasingly aligned with our national priorities through the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The most recent manifestation of this is the UNDAF Action Plan, the first operational plan for all UN support in the country. With this in place, our cooperation with the UN system has entered a new stage, in which our collaboration will provide a strong foundation for the transformation of Ethiopia in the coming few years.

The UN system in Ethiopia is working in a truly coordinated way to help us enhance our capacity to develop and implement programmes and policies that meet international standards. We are working together with every UN agency, fund and programme, using our own national systems to strengthen our institutions and communities. The UN system enhances this joint effort with its extensive international expertise and by sharing knowledge and experiences from different parts of the world.

We hope to continue with this successful partnership long into the future to promote sustainable development, good governance and improved quality of lives for all Ethiopians.

H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn
Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Addis Ababa, January 2012
The UN in Ethiopia has voluntarily opted into the UN Delivering as One reform agenda to streamline its contributions to helping Ethiopia meet its development objectives.
Introduction

Ethiopia is a fascinating country, full of potential, contrasts and challenges, with a Government that has shown a high level of commitment to overcoming its development challenges. Government partners are driving a holistic process of transformation which incorporates the voices of the poor and vulnerable at local level. The current five-year national development plan, the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) (2010/11–2014/15), envisages a major transformation of the national economy to focus on green and equitable growth while continuing to emphasize human development, women’s empowerment and governance. The Government is also focusing on the grassroots level and empowering regional and district authorities to generate appropriate responses to their own development constraints.

The UN in Ethiopia has voluntarily opted into the UN Delivering as One reform agenda to streamline its contributions to helping Ethiopia meet its development objectives. Our worldwide expertise in supporting development built up over the past 60 years, strengthened by the distinct added knowledge that each of our agencies brings to the table, positions us well to assist the Government in its transformation process. Furthermore, our close partnership with the Government makes for more sustainable support for Ethiopia as the country continues to make tremendous inroads towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, as well as its ambitious objectives for long-term development.

We are already seeing the positive results of this strong partnership through substantial investments in programmes that support diversified livelihoods and household asset-building. In 2011, Ethiopia showed greater resilience in the face of the severe drought in the Horn of Africa sub-region in contrast with its vulnerability to comparable shocks in previous years. Even though populations were affected adversely by the drought, they were better prepared to cope and systems were in place to protect and help them avoid the worst impacts of the crisis.

This particular example highlights how important it is to build national capacity and invest in longer-term development projects to help lift more Ethiopians out of the cycle of poverty. Building strong governance systems that entail respect for human rights, access to justice and protection for the most vulnerable; creating opportunities for equitable economic growth and employment; providing access to quality health care and education, including in remote areas; and increasing the participation of women and youth in decision-making; these are some of the crucial building blocks for economic progress and the development of any country.

We hope this book helps highlight how our One UN works in Ethiopia to promote socio-economic progress. Working together with the Government and other development partners, we are stronger, and better able to support development for all.

Eugene Owusu,
UN Resident Coordinator and UN Humanitarian Coordinator
Addis Ababa, January 2012
“We are committed to becoming a middle-income country by 2025 and distributing the benefits of our growth to all our citizens to help the most disadvantaged and vulnerable out of poverty.”

H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn, Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
Country overview

Ethiopia is one of the oldest independent nations in Africa, dating back to about 100 BC. Located in the Horn of Africa, and with a population of 84 million, it is the continent’s third-most-populous country. As a federal parliamentary republic, Ethiopia’s Prime Minister is Head of Government and the President is Head of State.

Ethiopia extends over 1.14 million km², 45% of which is arable land. It is subject to geographical and climatic variations, with its central mountains and plateaus divided by the Great Rift Valley, and surrounding lowlands of desert in the east and tropical forest in the west. While the capital, Addis Ababa, sits at nearly 2,400 m above sea level—the fourth-highest capital in the world—the valley floor of the Danakil Depression descends to approximately 100m below sea level—one of the world’s lowest points on land.

Ethiopia has achieved remarkable economic and social progress, particularly over the past decade. Recent annual economic growth has averaged 11%, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. Ethiopia is also one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa that is on track to meet most of the MDG targets.

Endowed with fertile soil and large bodies of water, Ethiopia is known as the “water tower” of Africa. Yet it is commonly understood that the country is currently employing a mere fragment of its hydropower potential. Agriculture, mostly rain-fed smallholder farming, was until recently the leading economic sector, and continues to account for around 80% of employment. However, agriculture has in recent years been overtaken by the services sector, in terms of both rate of growth and share of contribution to gross domestic product (GDP).

Ethiopia’s continued vulnerability to climatic and other external shocks, including those related to global prices and inflation, has compromised its efforts to reduce poverty. The country’s overarching development goal remains the eradication of poverty through “broad-based, accelerated and sustained economic growth” that is also inclusive and equitable. Inflation in particular remains a major concern that could curtail recent development gains.

Despite capacity challenges, the Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated strong ownership of its policies and development strategies, and is in the driver’s seat when it comes to working with development partners, including the UN, in implementing its programmes and achieving results. The current five-year development plan, the Growth and Transformational Plan (GTP), aims to address development gaps and accelerate socio-economic growth so the country can attain climate-resilient, carbon-neutral, middle-income status by 2025.

Remittance flows represent a significant share of national income and foreign currency earnings for Ethiopia. The actual volume of remittances in the country, including flows through formal and informal channels, could be in the range of US$ 1–2 billion annually.

Delivering as One in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is divided administratively into nine regional states—Afar; Amhara; Beneshangul Gumuz; Gambela; Hareri; Oromia; Somali; Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples; and Tigray—and two municipalities—Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. The official language is Amharic, with Oromigna and Tigrigna among the many regional languages spoken. English is the major foreign language taught in schools.
Ethiopia’s key development facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated population</td>
<td>84.7 million (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population (% of total)</td>
<td>16.8% (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population aged 0–14 years (2010)</td>
<td>41% (World Bank)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual population growth rate (2010–2015)</td>
<td>2.1% (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population below the international poverty line of US$ 1.25/day (2005)</td>
<td>39.0% (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (2010)</td>
<td>29.2% (MoFED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index ranking (2011)</td>
<td>174 out of 187 countries (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real gross domestic product growth rate (2011)</td>
<td>11.4 % (MoFED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross domestic product per capita (PPPS)</td>
<td>US$ 934 (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual rate of inflation (November 2011)</td>
<td>31.5% (CSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2010)</td>
<td>104 (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births (2010)</td>
<td>470 (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (2010)</td>
<td>59.1 (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary health care coverage</td>
<td>89% (MoFED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population using improved drinking water sources (2010)</td>
<td>68.5% (MoFED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net primary school enrolment ratio—male (2005–2009)</td>
<td>82.1% (Ministry of Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net primary school enrolment ratio—female (2005–2009)</td>
<td>75% (Ministry of Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seats held by women in national parliaments</td>
<td>25.5% (HDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major trading partners as % of exports (2010)</td>
<td>Switzerland (17.0%), Germany (11.5%), China (9.1%), Somalia (8.2%), Netherlands (6.0%) (Ministry of Trade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major trading partners as % of imports (2010)</td>
<td>China (15.6%), Saudi Arabia (9.0%), India (7.2%), UAE (6.9%), Japan (5.4%) (Ministry of Trade)</td>
</tr>
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Development challenges

Ethiopia has achieved commendable development results over the past decade. The economy grew at a real annual average rate of 11.3% between 2004 and 2011, and poverty levels are estimated to have declined sharply, from 38.9% in 2004/05 to 29.2% in 2010.

Nevertheless, Ethiopian GDP per capita remains among the lowest in the world. Both urban and rural poverty persist. With more than a third of the population living below the poverty line, urban poverty is slightly lower than in rural areas, but is decreasing at a slower rate. Urban areas are also seeing inequity increase at a higher rate than rural areas. High youth unemployment and under-employment are serious challenges in both rural and urban areas.

Agriculture continues to be the main livelihood for the majority of the population, but productivity remains low and depends on rain-fed cultivation. Although Ethiopia has the greatest water reserves in Africa, there are few functioning irrigation systems in place to capitalize on this.

In most cases, women and girls are less advantaged and less represented in decision-making and the private sector. Women’s employment in industry is lower than that of men, at 27.9%. They also earn less than their male counterparts.
“Ethiopia has a very good chance of achieving almost all the MDGs. From a country coming from poverty, this is a huge achievement. The country also now has the opportunity to move from a focus on access alone to one on actual quality of access.”

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Representative.
The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia is the largest in Africa and, taken as a single entity, is one of the major development partners in the country. It comprises 25 resident UN agencies with offices based in Ethiopia, as well as non-resident agencies, and includes the Bretton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank).

**The UN in Ethiopia employs over 2,000 staff and has a combined budget of nearly US$ 1 billion per year.**

The UNCT delivers support to the Government’s national development strategies, in particular the GTP. There is strong Government commitment to the partnership, which helps ensure development in the country is more effective.

**The Millennium Development Goals**

Ethiopia has made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs. Apart from the overall decline in poverty, positive gains have been made in terms of education, health and reducing the prevalence of HIV and AIDS. These advances owe largely to the Government’s efforts, with substantial support from the UN.

According to the 2010 Ethiopia MDG report, most of the MDGs are on track for achievement by 2015 if progress continues or is sped up. The UN and the Government are now accelerating their efforts to meet the Goals that are slightly off-track (Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Maternal Health and Environmental Sustainability) by the set deadline.

**Joint Programmes**

The UN in Ethiopia runs three Flagship Joint Programmes to ensure a unified response for stronger impact. The agencies involved bring to these programmes their individual expertise, which greatly enhances the programmes’ value. The Flagship Joint Programmes focus on areas in which the country is lagging behind on meeting the MDGs: maternal health, gender empowerment and equitable development in the four regions in which performance against all human development indicators is below the national average. The “developing regional states” are Afar, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambela and Somali regions.
Summary of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Ethiopia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Achieve Universal Primary Education</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</td>
<td>Likely to be on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Reduce Child Mortality</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Improve Maternal Health</td>
<td>Likely to be on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>Likely to be on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Develop a Global Partnership for development</td>
<td>On track</td>
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Five more Joint Programmes, supported by the MDG Achievement Fund, target accelerated and sustained progress on:

- Edible Oil Value Chain Enhancement
- Enabling Pastoral Communities to Adapt to Climate Change and Restoring Range Land Environment
- The National Nutrition Programme
- Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Change
- Leave No Woman Behind

Delivering as One in Ethiopia
The UNDAF
In order to be able to Deliver as One in Ethiopia, the UNCT has aligned its single, internal plan of action to support Ethiopian development—the UN Development Assistance Framework, or UNDAF 2012–2015—with the Government’s GTP. The UNDAF, which was developed through a participatory process and which reflects all proposed UN work in Ethiopia, is supplemented by an Action Plan which details how the agencies will work together with the Government and other partners to achieve its aims.

Making growth sustainable and enhancing resilience is key to the UN approach in Ethiopia. This is evident in the UNDAF’s emphasis on disaster risk reduction, climate change and stable macro-economic growth to ensure communities have resilient systems, processes and mechanism. The focus on equity, inclusion and putting in place minimum social protection systems is crucial to promoting the social cohesion that connects growth with stability.

The four pillars of UNDAF

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sustainable Economic Growth and Risk Reduction</th>
<th>Basic Social Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A transformed agriculture sector</td>
<td>• HIV prevention, treatment, care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More competitive manufacturing and services</td>
<td>• Equitable access to quality education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A minimum package of social protection</td>
<td>• Improved access to quality health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support for effective disaster risk management and improved food security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promotion of a low-carbon climate-resilient green economy</td>
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<th>Governance and Capacity Development</th>
<th>Women, Youth and Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Enhanced human rights and justice</td>
<td>• Increased participation of women and youth in decision-making, livelihood opportunities and social services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enhanced inclusiveness, participation, transparency, accountability and responsiveness</td>
<td>• Protection and rehabilitation of women, youth and children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stronger institutions to manage development</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Cross-cutting themes: gender equity; data management; information and communication technology; HIV and AIDS; population; environment and climate change; migration and development; human rights.
“One UN is not a slogan. It is a management imperative. It is the first principle of effectiveness. It is the thing I will watch most closely.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
The UN Delivering as One reform process was launched internationally in 2006 by the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in response to the global shift towards greater aid effectiveness. Its main objective is to enable the UN system to become a better partner to governments and people around the world and to better respond to the challenges posed by the MDGs and internationally agreed development goals.

Eight countries were selected to pilot this new way of delivering UN assistance at the country level: Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

Ethiopia is a “self-starter” in Delivering as One. The UN in Ethiopia has embraced the One UN reform agenda since 2008, with the support of the Government. Overall guidance to the Delivering as One process is provided by a High-level Steering Committee, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), with representatives from the UNCT, Government ministries and donor agencies.

Delivering as One comprises five elements:
One Programme, One Fund, One Leader, One Office and One Voice.

- **One Programme** covers the programme actions of the UN in-country and aims to improve alignment, coordination and accountability while reducing duplication and fragmentation.
- **One Budgetary Framework and One Fund** aims to identify resource gaps and lays the groundwork for joint resource mobilization.
- **One Leader** refers to the empowerment of the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT to steer UN work together, reinforce mutual accountability and provide strategic guidance in Delivering as One and in the implementation of One Programme.
- **One Office/One UN** operations seeks to harmonize and improve the quality of common services, as well as improving cost efficiency.
- **One Voice** through the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) sees the UN Communicating as One to strengthen its advocacy and awareness-raising role and ensure coherence in its messages.
Delivering as One

One Programme

Ethiopia’s One Programme is made up of the UNDAF and its associated Action Plan. It is a common operational approach that promotes coherence among the efforts of all UN funds, programmes and agencies in Ethiopia. It is fully aligned with the Government’s national development priorities and promotes responsiveness and equity to safeguard the sustainability of development gains.

One Budgetary Framework and One Fund

The UNDAF Action Plan includes a single budgetary framework to support the identification of resource gaps and the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy, as well as to increase transparency and predictability in the use of resources.

In early 2011, the Ethiopia One UN Fund was established under the direction of the Resident Coordinator to support the coherent mobilization, allocation and disbursement of donor resources.

One Leader

The UNCT in Ethiopia has endorsed Standard Operating Procedures that set out the principles, roles and responsibilities of the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT itself. This will help the Resident Coordinator’s Office better direct the harmonized activities of UN agencies in the country.

One Office

The UNCT in Ethiopia is making efforts to redesign management processes and business practices to ensure more effective delivery of UN support to the Government’s national development strategies. The Operations Management Team is further strengthening joint work on common services. This has improved linkages between and among UN agencies in the areas of travel, procurement, human resources, health and information and communication technology.

One Voice

The UNCT has agreed to the principle of Communicating as One by rolling out a joint Delivering as One Communications Strategy led by the UNCG. This guides UNCT members in their engagement on media and external relations and promotes broader public awareness of the role of the UN. One Voice also supports joint fundraising for the UN’s work in Ethiopia. To showcase Delivering as One in Ethiopia, the UNCT has supported a rebranding of the UN and the creation or revitalization of joint platforms that support the One Voice objectives.
Positive changes of the Delivering as One process in Ethiopia

- A clearer strategic focus as a result of joint planning and programming;
- Improved development impact as a result of increased capacity to scale up programmes nationally through coordinated and joint efforts;
- A shared vision on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of UN support in-country;
- Value for money: greater accountability for development resources;
- Increased effectiveness through sharing a wealth of knowledge and drawing on combined expertise/resources.

UN support to media development in Ethiopia

This joint initiative to establish a media development network aims to strengthen partnership with communication actors and support the media’s central role in advancing public dialogue on development issues, raising public awareness, heightening public accountability and influencing behavioural change.
“The UN is working together and the UN delivers together. The coordination mechanism succeeds in this area, and is well aligned with Government priorities, which enables us to put in place multi-year programmes.”

Abdu Dieng, WFP Representative.
Sustainable Economic Growth and Risk Reduction

Agriculture is a major economic sector in Ethiopia and most Ethiopians’ primary source of income, yet most agricultural livelihoods remain subsistence-based and rain-fed, contributing to low productivity and high vulnerability to climate-induced shocks. This, and the challenges involved in rapid industrialization, puts pressure on the many, already-vulnerable people living in Ethiopia, as well as on the many refugees who have flooded in from outside, fleeing catastrophes in their own countries.

The Ethiopian Government is responding to the situation through its commitment to the ambitious goal of equitable economic and social progress and the development of a carbon-neutral, climate-resilient economy. The UN is supporting these goals by focusing on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, with a strong emphasis on reaching women, youth and other vulnerable groups.

Agriculture
A transformed agricultural sector

- Around 85–90% of Ethiopian agriculture is rain-fed.
- An estimated 50% of land resources are degraded.
- Pre- and post-harvest losses are currently estimated at 30–40%.

Ethiopia has shifted towards a higher growth path in agriculture in recent years. However, the sector remains characterized by low production and productivity. Pre- and post-harvest losses and the underdeveloped marketing system further undermine incentives to increase productivity.

The UN is helping the Government put in place a more transparent and efficient marketing system and strengthen access to inputs, credit and markets. Linking commercialized and climate-smart agriculture will benefit farmers in a number of ways, not least by increasing productivity.
Diversifying crops for improved livelihoods

FAO is promoting economic growth in rural areas of Oromia region by strengthening and commercializing small-scale farmers. This involves promoting new technologies and practices, establishing farmer-based seed production and strengthening community capacity to market inputs and outputs.

Ato Wegene Abebe’s small-scale farm became a medium-sized investment after he started producing seeds in 2005 through the Government extension system. He joined the FAO programme shortly afterward and received intensive training on seed production and post-harvest handling. Abebe’s 2010/11 yield was the highest in the country’s history. He is currently building a hotel in the regional capital with his profits.

MDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme: Edible Oil Value Chain Enhancement

This pilot programme, led by UNIDO, in partnership with FAO and ILO, in Amhara and Oromia regions promotes a productive and competitive oil value chain in local and international markets. It covers business development services, access to finance and occupational safety and health, and also works on upgrading informal operators into the formal sector and improving the marketing system.
Industry
More competitive and environmentally sustainable manufacturing and services

- Industry still contributes only 13% to Ethiopia’s gross domestic product. This figure is dominated by the informal sector.
- Women’s employment in industry is only 27.9%. Women earn about 86% of what men earn.

The Ethiopian Government is focusing on modernizing agriculture through rapid and sustainable industrialization to diversify and transform the country’s economy. Within this, it is working on structural transformation and linkages with new agricultural micro and small enterprises. The UN is assisting the Government to set up an enabling environment for private sector growth, with a focus on product quality and safety.

The Ethiopian Government is focusing on building a sustainable industrial base to diversify and transform the country’s economy. Within this, it is working on structural transformation to improve the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). UN support to the Government includes assistance in the development of effective industrial development policies that create an enabling environment for private sector development. In line with the GTP, UNIDO in cooperation with UNDP and FAO assisted the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop the Ethiopian Agro-industry Sector Strategy. This examines pathways to promote value addition and agro-based industrial development. The UN is also providing technical assistance in technology transfer, investment promotion, quality and standardization and environmental management, including cleaner production.

Generating incomes through support to the craft industry
UNESCO is helping Ethiopians use their own knowledge to generate incomes through crafts. Living Culture Resource Centres train artisans in technical and organizational skills and also serve as sites for the design and sale of products. Producers can access micro-finance to improve their own production.

Mulu Meruts has been in the UNESCO-funded programme in Tigray region for two years, learning to weave and make baskets. Her new skill will help her improve her future and that of her three children, using the added income she can now generate selling crafts to tourists.
Social protection
A minimum package of social protection

- Poverty reduction has not yet translated into significant reductions in hunger or malnutrition.
- Age, HIV prevalence, location and gender are also important key determinants of vulnerability.
- Youth, facing high levels of unemployment, are a newly vulnerable group in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has a high number of vulnerable groups, particularly children, women, the disabled and the elderly. For example, poverty in Hintalo-Wajirat district of Tigray region—which has many vulnerable people—is extreme: over 45% of people live below the poverty line. These groups are at high risk when shocks come, and thus remain in need of a minimum level of protection.

Protection of the vulnerable means securing education, health care, social welfare and livelihoods, as well as supporting them to move away from dependence on emergency assistance towards a reliable social safety net. The UN is assisting Government in the design of a minimum package of social protection, as well as continuing its support to existing social protection measures.

Giving financial assistance to the poorest is extremely important. For a family living in extreme poverty, their income can double when they receive small basic benefits.
UNICEF and WFP are working with Government to pilot social cash transfers in Tigray through transfers of cash and other resources to vulnerable children, the disabled and pensioners. Around 3,300 households in two districts receive grants, depending on household composition. Committees of community representatives identify the most vulnerable and the best ways to support them.

Meron, 13, lost both her parents to HIV when she was 18 months old. She lives with her aunt, who has no assets and is also HIV-positive, and who also has to raise her own three children as well as her two younger brothers. The additional ETB 50 they receive every month helps them tremendously— to purchase school material, additional food or expenses they can usually not afford.
Disaster risk management
Support for effective disaster risk management and improved food security

- Dependence on rainfall makes Ethiopia extremely vulnerable to climate variations, resulting in high levels of chronic and temporary food insecurity.
- Vulnerability is increased by a lack of access to basic social services.
- Ethiopia has been a refugee-hosting country for decades, and was home to nearly 275,000 refugees—mainly Somalis, Eritreans and Sudanese and refugees from South Sudan—by the start of 2012.

Although the current drought is very severe, our programmes building community resilience have been effective: Ethiopia has not fallen into disaster, even though parts of neighbouring countries are experiencing one of the most severe famines of recent times. We hope donors will not wait until a crisis to provide funding in the future—it is essential also to build resilience.”
Abdu Dieng, WFP Representative.

Ethiopia’s high vulnerability to both natural and man-made hazards may adversely affect investments in poverty reduction and food security if these risks are not managed adequately. Among the main hazards Ethiopia faces are drought, flooding, disease outbreaks and inter-communal conflict. The country is also a major destination for refugees fleeing conflict, poverty and disaster in neighbouring countries. Too often, the host communities in Ethiopia that provide the principal support to refugees are already among the most vulnerable.

The UN is aligning its contributions to disaster risk reduction, response and recovery with the Government’s approach. As well as supporting emergency response and recovery for disaster-affected Ethiopians, it is strengthening national disaster risk management strategies and institutions at the federal, regional and lower levels, and assisting with risk profiling, early warning, preparedness planning and community-based risk reduction and natural resource management. Disaster risk management is one of the UN’s biggest area of investment in Ethiopia.
Building sustainable livelihoods in food-insecure communities

Already running for over 20 years, the Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions (MERET) programme empowers chronically poor communities to build long-term food security, particularly in areas where natural disasters such as droughts are common. It is implemented through the Government with support from FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank, among others.

The programme is based on a food-for-work approach: through one component, 610,000 beneficiaries receive 3 kg of wheat a day for work done for up to three months annually. They are thus equipped with resources that enable them to invest in their land to increase their resilience. There are also more than 50 other interventions, such as small-scale irrigation and productivity enhancement. The programme is implemented alongside other assistance to address nutrition, health and environment issues.
The Humanitarian Response Fund

The Humanitarian Response Fund managed by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator is a pooled fund that supports humanitarian action in Ethiopia. It is among the largest donors in terms of non-food funding for humanitarian agencies working in the country.

The Fund enables the provision of flexible and predictable financing for greater effectiveness, accountability and partnership in humanitarian response. It aims to improve coordination and promotes consultation with Government to help ensure that assistance is targeted to those most in need.

“Coordination in humanitarian financing ensures a rapid response to urgent needs.”
Mike McDonagh, OCHA Head of Office.

Assistance and solutions for refugees

UNHCR undertakes complex diplomatic negotiations to influence Africa’s policies on refugees and works with the Government of Ethiopia and UN agencies such as IOM, UNICEF and WFP in the provision of protection and assistance to refugees.

By late 2011, there were over 185,600 refugees from Somalia in Ethiopia, more than 100,000 of whom had arrived in the past year fleeing from the impact of famine and conflict in their own country. In the second half of 2011, the UN and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs had to open three additional camps in the Dollo Ado area (in addition to two pre-existing camps in Jijiga and two in Dollo Ado). The influx from Somalia continues, primarily through the Dollo Ado corridor.

While working to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, the UN also strives to find durable solutions for them through voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. For example, UNHCR has, over the years, hosted close to half a million Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia — those from the Blue Nile and those fleeing South Sudan. All but 26,000 have been repatriated in safety and dignity, and a number of camps have been closed as a result of their voluntary repatriation to South Sudan.
Crises in neighbouring countries—and the Government’s open-door approach—have turned Ethiopia into a major refugee-hosting country. Refugees have pressing needs for assistance: access to education, shelter, infrastructure, health care and potable water, particularly as refugee camps are usually located in arid areas at some distance from the local population. The continued arrival of new refugees also puts pressure on host communities, which may also be provided with assistance such as water and food—sometimes even before refugees arrive.

**Assisted migration**

Ethiopia is also home to stranded migrants from Egypt, Libya, Tanzania, Tunisia and Yemen, while many Ethiopians are stranded abroad. IOM facilitates migration for those who have been granted resettlement in other countries as well as those returning home (from or to Ethiopia), providing international and national transport, along with medical assessments for those travelling abroad.

Agug, 20, and her husband Madu, 25, do not remember life before they were refugees—they arrived from Somalia when they were 9 and 14, respectively, and met in Gambela refugee camp. Along with their seven family members and two-year-old baby, they have been granted asylum in the US. They are very excited about the prospect of migrating.

“**It is a wonderful opportunity for us. If we work hard, we feel that everything is possible now. We will forever be grateful to the UN for giving us a real opportunity for our life and for our children.”**

Madu, a 25-year-old refugee from Somalia, awaiting resettlement to the US.
MDG Achievement Fund
Joint Programme: Enabling Pastoral Communities to Adapt to Climate Change and Restoring Range Land Environment
The Joint Programme works to enable pastoralist communities reliant on climate-dependent livestock farming to adapt to climate variability. It has conducted an assessment of their risks in relation to climate change and proposed enhancements to Government and regional climate change policy. The Joint Programme has also established an on-going participatory assessment of potential income-generating activities, such as dairy-processing, animal-fattening, bee-keeping and handicraft production.
Estimates of deforestation differ, but it is agreed that the scale of clearance has been massive.

Agriculture, water supply, hydropower production, economic and social infrastructure, health and biodiversity are the sectors that will be most affected by climate change.

There will be stronger secondary downstream impacts on all sectors of the economy.

Large-scale land degradation in Ethiopia poses a huge challenge in sustainably improving food security and productivity. The country is also extremely vulnerable to climate change. The poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and the lack of access to clean, affordable energy services.

The UN is catalyzing Ethiopia’s ambitious, yet essential plan to put in place a green economy and develop industry while at the same time being carbon-neutral. This involves interventions in renewable energy, green buildings, clean transportation, water, waste and land management, agriculture and forestry and access to the global carbon market.

UNDP has spearheaded the identification of untapped potential water sources in emerging regions that suffer from cycles of drought and associated water shortages. People have benefited from the drilling of boreholes and wells, which have in turn helped them adopt new livelihoods that promote sustainable production and food security.

UN Women is also focusing on women’s economic empowerment through the increased use of green technology, for example fuel-saving stoves, which enable more girls to go to school as less time is necessary for gathering fuel and cooking. At the same time, this provides a unique opportunity to pilot innovations and enable communities to generate income through livelihood diversification—thus contributing to Ethiopia’s poverty alleviation targets.
“My family is poor and I often don’t get enough food at home. I am happy to come to school, not only to learn, but also to have a warm meal.”
Evez Gebre, 15 years old, Tigray region.
Basic Social Services

Ensuring universal access to basic social services still requires substantial investment in Ethiopia. Human resources, infrastructure and support systems for health care need to be strengthened and chronic malnutrition remains high, with more than 50% of children stunted (lower than average height-for-age).

Achieving 100% enrolment and completion of primary school remains a challenge, particularly in pastoralist and semi-pastoralist areas. Given the importance of education in addressing other development goals, the issues of quality and equity are also paramount.

Ethiopia is committed to sustaining faster and more equitable economic growth through improved access to and use of basic social services. The UN is working with Government to strengthen its capacity to deliver on this pledge.

Health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene

Improved access to quality health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene services

- Newborn complications (38%), diarrhoea (22%), pneumonia (12%) and malaria (7%) are the four common direct causes of under-five mortality.
- Malnutrition is associated with 57% of under-five deaths.
- Of Ethiopia’s 84.7 million people (42 million are children under 18), approximately 40% lack access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene.

In partnership with Government, the UN is expanding the scope and quality of work undertaken by health extension workers and addressing human resource gaps. The focus is also increasing on reproductive health, nutrition and community-led water supply and sanitation.
Tisase Abera, 25 years old, just delivered her first baby in Yekatit 12 Hospital in Addis Ababa. She suffered from eclampsia (one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in Ethiopia) and came to the hospital unconscious. Tisase regained consciousness thanks to the magnesium sulphate supplementation she received. According to her doctor, without this new treatment, she would probably not have survived.
Flagship Joint Programme: Improving Maternal and Newborn Health and Survival

Maternal mortality is the MDG that Ethiopia is least likely to achieve. Only 25 health centres (of 636 surveyed) provide emergency obstetric and newborn care signal functions and only 395 have a midwife. Yet continued high levels of maternal mortality—and of maternal and infant ill-being—represent a high cost to society.

This Flagship Joint Programme, led by WHO, with UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank, targets 500 health centres, 50 hospitals and district health offices in all regions. It also helps increase commitment to maternal and newborn health and demand for, access to and utilization of quality services. It covers ante-natal care, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; family planning; abortion and post-abortion care; essential childbirth care; post-partum and post-natal care; and newborn care.

MDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme: The National Nutrition Programme

While there has been an improvement in rates of malnutrition among children under five in recent years, there is a need to accelerate this progress if Ethiopia is to achieve MDG 1 on halving by 2015 the number of people who suffer from hunger, as well as MDG 4 on child health. This Joint Programme is led by UNICEF, in partnership with FAO, WHO and WFP, as well as the Ethiopian Ministry of Health. It has four components:

• Sustainable out-patient services at community level to treat children with severe acute malnutrition;
• Caring and feeding for children and mothers through community-based nutrition interventions;
• Production and use of locally available complementary food; and
• Strengthening the nutrition information system and monitoring and evaluation.

The Joint Programme uses the existing decentralized service delivery structure at federal, regional, district and ward levels established by the Government’s National Nutrition Programme.

“This is a huge opportunity for the UN to make a difference. The four agencies involved—UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank—are working on extending emergency obstetric care, providing technical guidance, data management and empowering communities. It is all very important.”

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Representative.
Focused support to health care in underserved areas

Mobile health teams provide essential health, nutrition and WASH services to pastoralist/semi-nomadic communities, with a special focus on women and children. In regions where care-takers of severely malnourished and sick children often need to walk long distances to attend the nearest health centre or hospital, mobile health teams provide integrated case management for children who are suffering from pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and severe malnutrition. Pastoralist Health Extension Workers are rotated across teams every three months, exposing them to best practices and intensive on-the-job training so they can best reach the target population.

The Health Extension Programme is an innovative community-based programme, which aims to improve equitable access to basic preventive and curative health services through community-based interventions. Health Extension Workers operate out of local health posts to provide primary health care, family planning and integrated community childhood management services (on pneumonia, measles, malaria and severe malnutrition), and conduct household visits to people about the importance of hand-washing and using latrines. As part of the programme, model households are recognized—those which have implemented at least 12 of 16 HEP packages including separate shelters for livestock, family planning, antenatal care, immunizations and using latrines, among others.

HIV and AIDS
HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

- Adult HIV prevalence in 2010 was estimated at between 1.4% and 2.8%, with an estimated 79,870 children under 15 years old living with HIV.
- More than 5.4 million children under the age of 18 are orphaned by poverty and AIDS in Ethiopia.²
- HIV prevalence may be increasing in small market towns more than in big towns.
- Widow inheritance, polygamy, high divorce rates, gender-based violence, substance abuse and skin tattooing are intensifying the magnitude of the infection in some areas of the country.

The Government sees HIV and AIDS as a multi-sectoral priority. HIV is also a cross-cutting issue for the UN in Ethiopia: it is a focus of a number of other programmes, including those which address maternal and child health, refugees, education and gender equality. The UN provides key strategic support in prevention, care and treatment and extending social support to reach sustainable universal access. It is also strengthening policy and systems, leveraging resources, monitoring performance and promoting linkages to the international knowledge base on HIV and AIDS.

² UNAIDS Ethiopia country profile.
The Joint UN Programme of Support for HIV 2012–2015

The UNDAF has a standalone outcome on HIV, and five associated outputs and key interventions. This is therefore the operational plan for responding to HIV, outlining the UN’s joint action in support of the Ethiopian response to HIV and AIDS. It aims to reduce fragmentation and better harmonize UN approaches and interventions (including technical support) and align them fully with national priorities towards universal access to HIV services and attainment of the MDGs and other commitments and targets.

Established in 2007 following the UN Secretary-General’s letter to all Resident Coordinators, the Joint UN Team is responsible for conceptualizing and implementing the Joint UN Programme of Support for HIV. In Ethiopia, the team comprises all full- and part-time UN programme staff working on HIV and AIDS based in Addis Ababa and the regions. The UNAIDS Country Coordinator convenes the Joint Team and reports to the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT, and serves as the entry point for Government and other stakeholders that require support on issues related to HIV.
Medhanialem Primary School in Addis Ababa is a UNICEF-supported child-friendly school originally established in 1957. The child-friendly approach involves not just providing materials and training but also letting children take part in decisions on their own futures. Medhanialem Primary School now has separate latrines for girls and boys, a garden, water facilities, laboratory materials, photocopiers, uniforms, furniture and stationery for needy students. The school also has over 10 different clubs, including mini-media, music and drama clubs. Children in Grades 5–8 are learning on the 40 computers now available in the school. All of this is contributing to improved educational outcomes for children, particularly girls.
Quality education
Equitable access to quality education

- The primary school dropout rate for 2010/11 was 13.1% in Ethiopia.
- An estimated 28.6% of children with disabilities are enrolled in primary schools in Ethiopia.
- Preschool education and enrolment is still at only 5.2%.

Education is vital to help ensure a better quality of life for all children, especially for girls, yet numerous schools lack basic facilities such as water and toilets, and the quality of education is also a concern. The UN supports the Government in policy and strategy formulation and the dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches from around the world. It also focuses on capacity development for improved planning and management and active community engagement in education. Schools are being made child-friendlier and efforts are being made to improve education quality at all levels, for all groups and in all situations, including in emergencies and emerging regions.

“We would feel ashamed if we had to share latrines with the boys and we would not go.”
Brahani Shaga, 12 years old.

MDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme: Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Change

Through this Joint Programme, the UN draws on existing traditional knowledge by engaging diverse religious leaders in dialogue forums to enhance tolerance and shared values regarding natural heritage conservation. In the south, the Konso landscape is a world heritage site, registered by UNESCO. The UN Joint Programme uses indigenous knowledge to protect it: the local culture is to terrace the forests, which stops erosion, and to ensure that each community member plants a tree. This knowledge is nurtured and transferred to other regions that could benefit from it.
“UNDP is focusing on developing the capacity of the institutions that create the foundation for a democratic state, to ensure a coherent approach to bring about rule of law, participation, equity and the realization of universal human rights.”

Alessandra Tisot, Country Director, UNDP.
Strengthening political, parliamentary and electoral systems and ensuring that governance structures are effective, efficient and free of corruption can help people access information and a fair justice system to reduce poverty, sustain the environment and promote human development. It is vital to ensure the fundamentals of peace, democracy, tolerance, stability and social cohesion are upheld and protected. Awareness among citizens of their rights needs to be strengthened, as does implementation capacity at regional and district level.

Improving the quality of governance institutions and processes is at the core of national efforts to reduce poverty and promote human development. The Government of Ethiopia recognizes that no concrete gain in poverty reduction efforts can be made without the full participation of communities in their own development.

**Human rights and justice**

**Enhanced human rights and justice**

- Ethiopia has ratified all the major treaties, but has a backlog of reports to the various UN and regional treaty body mechanisms.
- It has traditionally been difficult for vulnerable groups in Ethiopia, such as women, people living with HIV, children and youth, as well as those in remote areas, to ensure access to justice.
- Broad-based awareness on human rights has been low across the country as a rule.

An accessible and accountable justice system remains the cornerstone of a society governed by the rule of law and is in itself crucial to sustainable development and economic growth. The UN is supporting the Government to protect the rights of vulnerable groups through access to justice for all by ensuring that rights reports, reviews and recommendations help develop the capacity of the country’s human rights actors and institutions. The UN is also a key partner in strengthening national capacity in all parts of the justice sector.
A shelter for survivors of gender-based violence

The Association for Women’s Sanctuary and Development in Addis Ababa supported by UNFPA and UN Women serves as a safe house for women who are victims of rape or domestic violence. The shelter also promotes prevention by talking to students and teachers in the community and builds the capacity of the police and people working in services for women.

Meaza is now 20. She was working in a restaurant when she was raped and became pregnant. Someone in her neighbourhood gave her shelter. When she had the baby, the neighbour went to the police, who brought Meaza to the safe house. She has been there for six months now with her daughter, Muna. She has access to shelter, food and counselling and has just graduated from an embroidery class. Her ultimate goal is to support herself and her daughter, but she also says: “What would I do without this place? I don’t know.”

Enhancing access to justice: legal aid centres

Ethiopia’s Constitution guarantees the rights of all citizens to access to justice. UNDP has assisted the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to initiate collaboration with academic and non-governmental institutions—in particular the Ethiopia Women Lawyers Association—to enable the Ethiopian people, especially the poor and marginalized, to bring justice closer to the people. It has now set up free legal aid services for the population, by means of 102 legal aid centres around the country.

Vulnerable groups can now access a free legal service, which is helping ensure remedies for human rights violations for citizens. The partnership also entails awareness creation on human rights, which empowers citizens to be active and effective participants in the democratic process.
The participation of men and women in democratic governance remains challenging, particularly in relation to women’s participation in public decision-making.

In Afar, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambela and Somali regions, progress on most development indicators is lower than the national average.

Inadequate institutional capacity, high turnover and low levels of community participation have an impact on the ability of local governments to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively.

Democratic governance is vital to strengthen accountability and facilitate dialogue and consultation with and among Ethiopia’s citizens. It is essential to strengthen the capacity of both the Government and community institutions at local levels to enhance decentralization objectives, particularly the provision of quality services, especially in the four developing regional states.

The UN is contributing to the Government’s goals of deepening democratic governance through its support to the conduct of elections and the establishment of platforms for dialogue. It is also strengthening the capacities of democratic institutions and the framework and processes for governance in a number of areas.

Democratic governance
Enhanced inclusiveness, participation, transparency, accountability and responsiveness

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- Inadequate institutional capacity, high turnover and low levels of community participation have an impact on the ability of local governments to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively.

Laying the foundations for democratic participation

The children’s parliament was established in 2006 by the Ethiopian Institute of the Ombudsman. Ethiopia is among the few African countries to have established a children’s parliament as part of a global initiative aimed at promoting children’s rights and their role in society. The country receives funding to facilitate the work of 8 of the 11 model parliaments set up so far. As a result of the success of the initiative, the country has decided to set up a further 62 such parliaments.

The children, who come from various schools and institutes, range from 12 to 16 years old. They are empowered to act as socially and legally mindful citizens who not only understand but also demand their rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

They meet twice a year to discuss issues related to children’s rights and their role in society and are helping strengthen Ethiopia’s democratization by promoting the protection of human rights and good governance.
Stronger institutions to manage development

The UN strengthens the capacity of Government and community institutions to help enable them to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively. The UN is also improving access to reliable data to ensure evidence-based accountability in implementing the GTP.

Flagship Joint Programme: Enhancing Public Service Delivery to Accelerate Regional Employment Outcomes in Four Developing Regional States

While achieving the MDGs by 2015 looks ever more likely in Ethiopia, large disparities remain among regions. Progress is slowest in the four developing regional states—Afar, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambela and Somali—which account for just 9.2% of the national population but 50% of the country’s surface area.

These regions are subject to high poverty and low levels of service delivery. The major cause of their lagging performance includes their weak economic governance, inadequate decentralization structures, poor infrastructure, limited community participation and vulnerability to recurrent conflict and natural disasters.

The Developing Regional States Flagship Joint Programme led by UNICEF, with FAO, UNCDF, UNDP, WFP and WHO, is working to improve local services and build institutional capacity and policy advocacy under three sub-components:

- Strengthening local governance;
- Improving social service delivery; and
- Improving and expanding sustainable agricultural, livestock and other livelihood services.
The multi-donor-funded Democratic Institutions Programme supports seven public democratic institutions in Ethiopia, at federal, regional and sub-regional levels, to become more democratic, effective and responsive to their mandates. Institutions are also collaborating more freely than before, and public understanding of the responsibilities of these institutions has been enhanced—resulting in increasing numbers of inquiries and complaints to be handled by the oversight institutions.

For example, the House of People’s Representatives and Regional State Councils have received extensive training and support. The Democratic Institutions Programme has improved the knowledge base of federal and regional parliamentarians through information kits on the operation and functions of the House/Councils and induction training for new Members of Parliament/Councils.

The programme has also continued to support the bi-annual Speakers’ Forum as an experience-sharing platform for parliamentarians to discuss common issues. The Forum has become a useful tool for strengthening parliamentary work, democracy and good governance by facilitating learning from within.
“If you don’t tap into the potential of women, you will only address half of the country’s needs.”

Mira Ihalainen, UN Women Country Programme Manager.
Women, youth and children constitute a significant proportion of the Ethiopian population and experience many challenges specific to their gender or age. For example, women’s health is affected adversely by poverty, poor nutrition and restricted access to health care services. Twice as many women as men are infected by HIV and AIDS, but fewer women are on anti-retroviral therapy. Poverty and cultural factors contribute to this situation, including violence against girls and women in the form of female genital mutilation/cutting, early marriage and abduction and rape followed by forced marriage.

The Ethiopian Government has made significant efforts to address these concerns, particularly in sectors such as education and health. Challenges remain, but the recently restructured Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs is well-positioned to address the many on-going concerns of women, youth and children in a coordinated and holistic manner, in partnership with the UN.

Women, Youth and Children

Women and youth empowerment
Increased participation of women and youth in decision-making, livelihood opportunities and social services

Women are marginalized in the economic sphere in Ethiopia, and more work needs to be done to increase their participation in political and decision-making processes. With a large young population, Ethiopia also needs to enhance the participation of children and youth.

- Only 25% of parliamentarians are female.
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2010 ranks Ethiopia 121st out of 134 countries in terms of the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities.
- Prevailing social attitudes favour men/boys over women/girls with regard to food, health care, education and formal sector employment.

The UN is addressing gender inequality as a cross-cutting theme of its joint country programme, but is also focusing on women, youth and children as a pillar of the UNDAF to support Government-led national efforts in this regard.
Increasing women’s leadership and participation in decision-making

UN Women’s Leadership and Participation Programme in Ethiopia provides information to Government on the number of women involved in each sector of the economy. It also helps identify women who can be promoted into leadership and decision-making positions by building the capacity of women leaders through technical skills development, complemented by leadership programmes in male-dominated fields such as economics, finance and science. Women in Ethiopia do far less public speaking than men, for example, and this is one of the programme’s focuses.

The UN is providing financial and technical support to enhance the participation of women and youth in decision-making processes at different levels and to increase their livelihood opportunities. The UN is also improving access to and utilization of critical social services designed to improve the health, education and well-being of women and youth.

To help women reach their optimal potential in all areas of life, they need marketable skills. This needs to be accompanied by social transformation regarding negative gender stereotypes and behaviours so women can take part in decision-making and policy planning processes that have a direct impact on their quality of life.

The promotion of change at macro level and across society

With help from ILO, UNFPA and UNICEF, ministries are building their capacity to ensure that laws are in accordance with women’s and children’s rights and Government-ratified international treaties. Regional Bureaus of Justice and the police are supported to provide legal protection and civil society organizations are assisted to carry out social mobilization for increased awareness and change on social problems.
MDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme: Leave No Woman Behind

Leave No Woman Behind, supported by UNFPA in partnership with WFP and the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, is being implemented in Amhara and Tigray regions to assist the Government’s efforts to achieve MDG 3 on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The programme includes community mobilization and education and life skills for women. Reproductive health services provided include family planning and HIV education. The programme also represents part of the global campaign to end early marriage. Around 46% of girls in Amhara go through forced marriage—and some can be betrothed as early as eight years old.

The Berhane Hewan (“Light for Eve”) programme, supported by UNFPA, is being implemented in 36 sites in 12 localities of the region by the Amhara Region Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, and involves 10,000 adolescent girls. Its goal is to expand mechanisms to protect girls at risk of forced early marriage and married adolescent girls, ranging in age from 10 to 19 years old. Female mentors are in charge of community conversations, handle non-formal education sessions and facilitate weekly married girls’ club meetings and the provision of reproductive health services in collaboration with Health Extension Workers and district health offices.

“Thanks to interventions such as Berhane Hewan and communities’ ownership and commitment to end early marriage, we now see young girls standing up in front of their parents and explaining that they will not accept to get married before they are ready.” Benoit Kalassa, UNFPA Representative.
A rights-based approach to adolescent and youth development

UNICEF and UNFPA have been working together in Gonder with Government partners since January 2009 to support young people to improve their livelihood opportunities. Young people are offered up-to-date information on HIV and AIDS, with a particular focus on helping adolescent girls protect themselves against gender-based violence and reproductive rights violations. Community conversations help increase awareness among young people of their rights and responsibilities and develop a participatory approach to solving community problems. The programme also promotes sustainable livelihood schemes for the most vulnerable, through training on life skills and income generation and seed money support.

Youth, especially those out of school and in disadvantaged situations, need to be able to compete for, and benefit from, livelihood opportunities. Young women especially need to be equipped with knowledge, skills and capacity to make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health.
73% of women and girls in the country have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting.

- There are between 150,000 and 200,000 street children nationally, with a further 1 million vulnerable or at risk of being on the street.
- Girls who work and live on the streets are faced with extremely harsh conditions, including sexual abuse by adults, rape, unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood—sometimes as young as 12.

Many women and girls in Ethiopia are subject to discriminatory attitudes, harmful traditional practices and violence. Early marriage, rape, sexual harassment and abduction are common. Meanwhile, children are at a heightened risk of being orphaned as a result of widespread poverty, rapid population growth, displacement and the death of parents from HIV and AIDS.

The UN and Government are prioritizing initiatives that protect women, youth and children from abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination. The primary focus is on building child protection systems and social mobilization to address the root causes. The UN is also building the institutional capacity of law enforcement and other bodies to support the effective implementation of relevant policy and legal frameworks. Meanwhile, work is under-way to enhance the provision of appropriate protection and response services for survivors of violence and abuse.
Flagship Joint Programme: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Gender inequalities in Ethiopia are multi-sectoral; redressing them is a central component of several agencies’ mandates. Given the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs’ interest in harmonized support to large-scale gender interventions, the need for a Flagship Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment was clear. Led by UN Women and UNFPA, along with ILO, UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank, this programme works towards three outcomes:

- Economic empowerment of women, through access to opportunities, markets, skills and finance;
- Delivery of quality basic social services, such as legal services;
- Good governance, such as through technical skills development and leadership programmes.
Preventing Trafficking of Ethiopian Migrant Workers and Protecting Their Rights

ILO is contributing to the Government’s efforts to reduce the vulnerability of Ethiopian workers to trafficking, as well as promoting a work environment that upholds the values of decent work. This is done by strengthening the capacity of legislators, law enforcement agencies, private employment agencies, potential migrants and sending communities. The project also aims to establish a sustainable information system on human trafficking.

“It is women who are actually brought up to think that it is okay for their husband to beat them for being late or not having sex with them. If women do not fully participate in interventions, what does it mean for our country?”

Mira Ihalainen, UN Women Country Programme Manager.
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The United Nations family works side-by-side with the Government and the people of Ethiopia to create an environment where everyone can participate and benefit from the development process. Uniquely positioned to assist Government to meet its ambitious development goals, the UN Country Team is privileged to be a trusted partner of Ethiopia on its journey towards social and economic self-reliance.

This publication highlights the collaborative efforts and coordinated response of the UN Country Team to address Ethiopia’s development challenges.