

Ethiopia: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Safaya Kabato with her bank book, which she uses to save her income from the milk business.
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What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Ethiopia?

Empowering women living in rural areas is crucial to ending poverty and hunger, achieving food security and empowering all women and girls.

The [Rural Women Economic Empowerment SDG Fund Joint Programme \(RWEE JP\)](#)—a five-year programme implemented by the Government of Ethiopia in partnership with UN Women, IFAD, WFP, and FAO—seeks to accelerate progress in providing economic empowerment for 2,374 rural women farmers and pastoralists in two pilot regions, Afar and Oromia. The Programme aims to secure their

livelihoods and rights in concert with the Sustainable Development Goals and with Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan II.

The programme has used the following multifaceted strategies:

- Support women as right holders to access credit, technology, skills trainings and strengthen their voices in local planning and within their households;
- Address the capacity building needs of Savings and Credit Cooperatives and Regional and District Bureaus of

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Before I have never saved income from the sale of milk. Now, I have opened a bank book and saved 1100 Birr (55 USD) in 2016.

After saving enough, my plan is to purchase another milking cow and increase the milk supply to generate more income.

Safaya Kabato

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Using the loan, I purchased an ox for 4,000 Birr (182 USD), paired it with the one I had and plough a half hectare of land that I own. I sowed improved wheat seeds, which I purchased for 1,200 Birr (55 USD).

After applying fertilizer worth 1,400 Birr (64 USD), I harvested 5 quintals.

Ila Robale



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Agriculture to enable them to deliver for women;

- Build on the comparative advantages of the UN participating agencies;
- Conduct gender focused community conversations and;
- Create enabling policy and institutional environment for gender equality

Why do the above actions matter to the people in Ethiopia?

The economy of Ethiopia is dominated by the agriculture sector, which accounts for 46.3 per cent of the nation's GDP, 83.9 per cent of exports, and 80 per cent of the labor force.

Additionally, the vast majority of farmers are smallholders, dependent on subsistence agriculture and vulnerable to external shocks. On average, rural women farmers perform up to 75 per cent of farm labor but they only hold 18.7 per cent of agricultural land and head only 20.1 percent of rural households.

Despite the recent policy initiatives to address gender disparities, evidence suggests that rural women still face individual, community, and institutional barriers to fully exercise their rights.



Ila Robale at the storage where she keeps the wheat, which she harvested using her own pair of oxen purchased with the loan provided under the program. © SDG Fund / UN Women / Fikerte Abebe

Rural women still lack access to key resources such as land, extension services, agricultural inputs, technology, and business development services and finance, thereby limiting their engagement in the value chain. These are further compounded by women limited decision-making power within households and the community at large and low levels of formal education and skill trainings.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced through the project?

The project focuses on Goal 1, Target 4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.



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