

(FORE)

National Report  
on

the Implementation

Beijing Platform for Action

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## List of Abbreviations

- AAU - Addis Ababa University
- ACW - African Center for Women
- ACSI - Amhara Credit and Savings Institution
- ADB - African Development Bank
- ADLI - Agricultural Development Led Industrialisation
- AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
  
- CBD - Community Based Distribution
- CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CERWID - Center for Research, Training and Information on Women In Development
- CRDA - Christian Relief and Development Association
- CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CSA - Central Statistical Authority
- CSE - Conservation Strategy of Ethiopia
- CSTCs - Community Skills Training Centers

DECSI - Dedit Credit and Savings Institution

Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women I	DEVAw
Center Prevention and Preparedness Commission	DPPC
African Commission for Africa	ECA
Ethiopian Media Women's Association	EMWA
Environmental Policy of Ethiopia	EPE
Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front	EPRDF
Economic Policy for the Transitional Period	FPTP
Economic Reform Program	
Education Sector Development Program	
Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development Fund	
Ethiopian Television	
Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association	
Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association	
FDRB - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation	
FHHs - Female Headed Households	
FWC - Fourth World Conference on	

GAD	-	Gender And Development
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	-	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
HSDP	-	Health Sector Development Program
HTPs	-	Harmful Traditional Practices
ICPD	-	International Conference on Population and Development
IDF	-	Institutional Development Fund
ILO	-	International labour Organization
MEDaC	-	Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation
MFIs	-	Micro-Finance Institutions
MOA	-	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	-	Ministry of Education
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
MOJ	-	Ministry of Justice
MOLSA	-	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MOTI	-	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MOWR	-	Ministry of Water Resource
MSEs	-	Micro and Small Enterprises

HTPs	-	Harmful Traditional Practices in Ethiopia
IPM	-	Disaster Prevention and Management Policy
NPBE	-	Non-Formal Basic Education
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOP	-	National Office for Population
NPA	-	National Plan of Action
NPEW	-	National Policy on Ethiopian Women
OAU	-	Organization for African Unity
OCSI	-	Ortho Credit and Savings Institution
PMO	-	Prime Minister's Office
SAP	-	Structural Adjustment Program
SDCs	-	Skills Development Centres
SNNPR	-	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State
STDs	-	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TGE	-	Transitional Government of Ethiopia
TIs	-	Teacher Training Institutions

UN - United Nations  
UNDP - United Nations Development Program  
UNFPA - United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund  
USA - United States of America

WAB - Women's Affairs Bureau  
WAD - Women's Affairs Department  
WAO - Women's Affairs Office  
WAT - Women's Association of Tigray  
WB - World Bank

Welfare monitoring Unit

## Executive Summary

The National Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is divided into four parts. Part I contains the introduction, which briefly analyses the past and present situation of Ethiopian women and notes the taking over of power by the TGE after the military coup in 1991. The steps taken by the TGE to address women's problems and to eventually attain their advancement, such as the formation of WAO and issuance of the NPEW as well as other relevant sectoral policies have been indicated. Furthermore, the UN conventions and declarations ratified earlier and which are relevant to the advancement of women, like CEDAW, DEJAW and CRC have been pointed out. On the other hand, international forums and conferences in which crucial resolutions and commitments were adopted and to which Ethiopia has committed itself have

been discussed in the background, which gives an overview of the socio-economic and political situation of the country. The steps taken by the TGE with the view to reconstruction and economic recovery in the country, such as the implementation of the ERP, designing of the ERP, formulation of the SAP as well as the implementation of the ADLI strategy have been pointed out. Moreover, the political process conducted in 1995, the adoption of a new Constitution and the formation of the multi-party government of the FDRE have been stated. The process of decentralization and the role of women in the process as well as the decentralization process have also been discussed.

In addition, the FDRE's adoption of the Five-year Program on Development, Peace and Democracy, as presented by the EPRDF has been noted. Besides, the achievements of the ERP, which covered the period between 1993/94 to 1997/98, have been spelt out. Some of these were the reduction of inflation from 10 to 3.6 per cent, external debt servicing from 82.1 to 45.8 per cent, budget deficit from 10.9 to six per cent and recurrent defense expenditure from 48.7 to 13.8 per cent. On the other hand, the increase of average growth rate of the GDP by six per cent, government revenue from 10.7 to 19.1 per cent and social service expenditure from

the extent of the privatization process were also pointed out.





Chapter three states about the health sector situation in particular the inadequacy of services mainly in rural areas, major health problems of females both direct and

indirect, obstetrical effects of HIV/AIDS as well as their responsibilities to themselves in various forms of violence as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters, epidemics and natural calamities. Furthermore, the alarming spread of the HIV/AIDS



of those women who won parliamentary seats, one is  
Federation and another one is a secretary of a regional  
government positions, there is one minister with a portfolio  
of a minister, two vice-ministers and four ambassadors and  
as well. When compared to the that of men in similar

House of Federati  
III speaker of the  
III state. As regard  
two others with  
this number is

endeavors being made to build the capacity of women to actively participate in the  
upcoming election has been stressed alongside with increased awareness  
creation/raising of the public.

Likewise, chapter eight deals with the institutional mechanisms to  
advancement of women. The role played by various  
gender issues into plans and programs of their resp

Chapter 11 discusses the role played by women in natural resources management and environmental protection and the lack of recognition to their contribution to the sector's development. The special focus given by to women the EPE and CSE to the plan, organization and implementation for the sector were underlined. In particular, the mapping out of gender strategy to facilitate mainstreaming of issues and concerns and implementation of the EPE have been pointed out.

The last chapter, 12 discusses issues in relation to the girl child such as the HTPs, in particular the FGM performed under the pretext of religion and preservation of tradition. The types of violence committed against the girl child and the combat being done to eliminate the harmful practices and the violent acts were also elaborated. The ratification of the CRC by government and the efforts being made within the context of the provisions and Article 36 of the EDBF Constitution, the

## I. Introduction

Women in Ethiopia, like their fellow sisters in other developing countries, have been victims of gender-based oppression and exploitation in all spheres of life. Ethiopian women, whose population has always been nearly equal to that of men, as indicated in the two censuses conducted so far, have been overtly and covertly

deprived of their social, economic and political rights. The subjugation and subordination of women have been solidified by the discriminatory laws of the country as well as the cultural beliefs and traditional practices of the society. Due to their low status in society, Ethiopian women have always been victims of all sorts of violence. They have also been vulnerable to human made and natural

disasters as well as

of Ethiopia (TGE), which came to power by

military regime in May 1991, has given due

The Transitional Go

dismantling the

considerable attention to the socio-economic development of Ethiopian women.

Office

established the Women's Affairs Office (WAO), under the Prime

(PMO) in October 1991. The office, headed by a woman with a rank

is entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating, facilitating and

government programs that concern women. WAO is likewise

creating conducive atmosphere for the implementation of the work

various governmental organizations and the country as a whole.

realization. It also coordinates the financial and material aids to

various sources.

In furtherance to its genuine commitment to the cause of women in

TGE issued a National Policy on Ethiopian Women (NPEW), in

1993. The women's policy has been since serving as a springboard for the execution of

the advancement of women in the country. The NPEW was also reinforced by

other subsequent sectoral policies issued later, which most of them incorporated

relevant issues of gender concern. Among these are that on health, education and

training, developmental social welfare, culture and environment.

Moreover, the government has incorporated the provisions contained in the UN conventions and declarations ratified so far, as well as other international legal instruments into the Constitution adopted in 1995, policies and proclamations issued and the laws being amended, with the view to improving the status of women and attaining gender equality. The main ones are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, Convention on

Convention Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CERD).

The Ethiopian Government has also committed to the implementation of resolutions adopted and recommended at different regional and international forums aimed at attaining the advancement on Environment and Development held. These are the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (1993), the World Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the World Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo (1994), the International Conference on Women in Dakar (1994), the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Copenhagen (1995), and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW): Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Beijing (1995).

II. Background

Western Africa, having an area of 1,112,000 Sq. kms. Ethiopia is a country with a population of 61,672,000. According to the Statistical Abstract of the Central Statistical Authority (CSA), the total population of the country for the year was 61,672,000, out of which 49.8 per cent were women. The rate of population growth at present is 2.6 per cent and more than 85 per cent of the country's population are rural. Agriculture is the mainstay of the country's economy and the contribution of the sector to total employment is about 90 per cent, to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 40 per cent, to export, 85 per cent and to raw materials for manufacturing industries, 75 per cent. Ethiopia has a great developed power, arable land, natural resources as well as unexploited minerals. The country has also a large number of livestock population. The country has also a large number of livestock population in Africa.

Upon the downfall of the military regime, Ethiopia and formed an elected government with the representation of different political parties. Presently, there are more than 14 political parties represented in the parliament, having organizations affiliated to it. The leading party is the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which had waged 17 years liberation struggle and overthrew the military government in May 1991.

The parliament is the highest political body, composed of representatives of Peoples Representatives' and House of Federation, whose members have been democratically elected from all nations and nationalities, starting from the kebele

(lowest administrative unit) level. The country has been restructured into nine regional states and two administrative councils, exercising autonomy, and rights effected through the decentralization process and devolution of

had given utmost attention to the improvement of the country's economic growth and reduction of poverty. The government mapped out the Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy, having central goals of improving the small holder agriculture and the industrialization of the economy. In order to attain economic stabilization, the government also created favorable conditions to private local and foreign investors to enable them participate as partners and contributors to the country's economic development.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) upon its establishment in 1991, adopted the Five-Year Program on Development, Peace and Democracy, as articulated by the leading party in government, the EPRDF. The program is implemented with main focus on increased productivity of the peasantry and reduction of poverty. The program also targets at benefiting the population through sustainable supply of export products, food at reasonable prices and raw materials for the manufacturing sector.

In the 1990s, under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDaC), economic stability and recovery were achieved through the Economic Reform Program (ERP) initiated from 1991/92 to 1997/98. This has been manifested by reduction of inflation from 10 to 3.6 per cent and that of external debt service from 32.1 to 25.8 per cent. In 1997/98, budget deficit decreased from 10.9 to six per cent while recurrent defense expenditure reduced from 48.7 to 13.8 per cent. On the other hand, the average growth rate of the GDP increased by six per cent, government revenue from 10.7 to 19.1 per cent and social service expenditure from 14.3 to 24.4 per cent.

In line with the opportunities created for the private sector development, 3,531 projects with an investment capital of 27.42 billion birr have been licensed during the period under review. As part of the privatization endeavor, more than 150 enterprises have also been privatized in three years time. In the financial sector, bank loans and other services insurance companies, both having many branches throughout the country were established. Moreover, bank loans have been made available to the private sector more than ever before, while the role and contribution of the private sector has increased to a great extent.

### III. Critical Areas of Concern for the Advancement of Women

In accordance with the commitment it entered, the government of Ethiopia has taken various measures and made considerable progress in making concrete achievements in the advancement of women. However, there are still 12 critical areas of concern, to which attention should be given. These are the issues of poverty, conflict, economy, power and rights, media, environment and health. In addition, the government should take more effective action, adopted at the PWCW and which should be addressed by member countries of the African Union, such as education and training, health, violence against women, decision-making, institutional mechanism



Although a national plan of action was not specifically prepared for ad-  
dressed critical areas of concern, those responsible have been keenly follo-  
the process in light of the national obligations and commitment entered  
international forum. The background of these issues, the extent  
been addressed or implemented, existing opportunities and v-

they have  
as well as

the previous regime and influx of returnees who had taken refuge in neighboring countries. The triple responsibilities that women shoulder and their vulnerability to human made and natural disasters make situations worst and also unbearable. In addition, women, in particular, FHHs are most affected, since are breadwinners for their members, most of the time lacking production resources.

As indicated earlier, the EPRP replaced the highly centralized military government with a more decentralized structure. The EPRP issued the EPIP, replaced the highly centralized military government with a more decentralized structure. The EPRP issued the EPIP, replaced the highly centralized military government with a more decentralized structure. The EPRP issued the EPIP, replaced the highly centralized military government with a more decentralized structure.

Likewise, the EDRE's Five-Year Program which is rural and people-centered, has one sustainable economic growth in the country poverty, through reduction of food insecurity and poor farmers including women. The main focus is on the small and poor farmers including women, whose contribution to agricultural production is more than 90 per cent of the total. The development program designed for five years was aimed at preparing the ground for meaningful and effective measures have been taken to address the problems of poverty was the

Emergency Recovery and Reconstruction Program (EREP) of the schools and health establishments devastated during the prolonged war fought before May 1991. On the other hand, a safety-net program adopted to accommodate the potential losers of the EPRP, such as renounced, unemployed, FHHs, poor farmers, the aged, disabled and orphans. One of the components of this program was provision of concessional loans to cooperatives. Another form of poverty reduction method was intensifying agricultural extension through subsidy of agricultural inputs. Besides, disbursement of credit to the urban poor was another step taken and 50 per cent of beneficiaries were targeted to be FHHs and school dropout girls.

Another important component was the Education Social Rehabilitation Fund, which was a community-based income-generation mainly for demobilized soldiers, displaced, returnees and the like. Side by side to the income generation interventions,



owners of dairy cattle as well as their products, and hence would enable them benefit more from the project through generating income and consumption/nutrition. It has been reported that livestock's contribution to agricultural production is about 30 per cent, crop (cereals) production 60 per cent

and forests products seven per cent. The project document has no is endowed with 80 million grazing animals, but of which 30 million

Similarly, the Agricultural Development Policy, the First Five Year Plan of 1998 has an objective to improving the quality of life of rural people through higher incomes and reduction of poverty. One of the strategies is to promote the contribution of women to agricultural production

has streamlined over 10 million birr to be disbursed among earlier among farmers, with

and control over resources by the majority of women, as guaranteed by the 1995 Constitution and 1996 Rural Land Administration

and crop failure affected by other factors as well.

environment and loss of soil fertility;

technology to reduce the workload of women at the

water supply and alternative energy sources, to save productive

skills for women to be engaged in off-farms activities.

mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of activities.

illiteracy, particularly among women.

to generation information and

existing resources.

#### Constraints

- Lack of
- although
- Adminis
- Recurren
- Depletion
- Lack of
- household
- Lack of p
- time and
- Lack of c
- Lack of s
- Prevalen

- Inadequate research and studies on gender disaggregated data.
- High population growth rate, putting pr

## 2. Education and Training for Women

In Ethiopia, the education system has been characterized by low quality, inequitable distribution of schools, inadequate educational opportunities, low expenditure on the sector and the like. In order to minimize these and other related problems, the IGE had issued the Education and Training Policy in April 1994.

The goal of the policy is to restructure and expand the education system, make it more relevant to the present and future needs of the society and attain universal primary education by the year 2015.

One of the major focus is re-orienting curricula across all levels of primary education and vocational training with the view to catering to the country's economic needs. The policy gives due consideration to female education and one of the specific objectives of the policy is *"To gear education towards re-orientating society as regards the role and contribution of women in development"*. Among the overall strategies of the policy are *"To give priority to women and those students who did not*



### 2.1.3. Technical and Vocational Schools

In the Ethiopian educational system, technical schools have been mainly meant for

... public girls were encouraged to pursue were ...  
 ... However, such an attitude has changed in ...  
 ... of girls in the traditionally male-dominated ...  
 ... At present, there are 16 technical and ...  
 ... of Education (MOE). There are also many ...  
 ... governmental Organizations (NGOs), although ...  
 ... mentioned government schools, the number of ...  
 ... than that of males. According to the education ...  
 ... of students in the technical and vocational

... this has shown an increase on ...  
 ... hand, the number of female ...  
 ... cent in 1998/99 than that of

... higher education institutions, ...  
 ... set up in the regional states of ...  
 ... nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) ...  
 ... ng themselves in the training to ...  
 ... given include: technical fields, ...  
 ... and builded

... students ...  
 ... secretarial or home econ ...  
 ... the course of nine and p ...  
 ... fields has increased at a ...  
 ... vocational schools under t ...  
 ... other such schools run ...  
 ... their number is not know ...  
 ... female students is likewi ...  
 ... statistics abstract, the to ...  
 ... schools for the year 1997/98 has reache ...  
 ... 23.2 per cent than that of 1995/96. O ...  
 ... students has registered an increase of ...  
 ... 1995/96, which was only 474

In order to accommodate students who ...  
 ... 25 Skills Development Centers (SDCs) ...  
 ... Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and Southern ...  
 ... In these centers, female students have b ...  
 ... acquire skills of their interest. The type ...  
 ... such as auto mechanics, metal works

In 1998/99 there were a total of 2,228 full time teaching staff in the institutions of higher learning, out of which 137 were females. The female percentage was very low as compared to males, and this is one justification for the limited opportunities, both in education and employment that the former had in the previous years.

As regards the equal participation of girls in education, one of the main constraints is the attitude of parents, since they opt to send their male children to school than the female. This is due to the fact that most parents in rural areas prefer to prepare their wives and mothers rather than to be working in their own right. Women's labor is very much needed in rural households, to assist mothers in the household tasks such as fetching water and collecting fire wood in the rural areas, and taking care of younger children. Furthermore, many parents prefer to send their children to far away schools and this is due to fear of abduction and rape as well as sexual harassment encountered by female students themselves. These factors have a negative impact on the increased enrollment and retention of female students in general.

The efforts being made to attain the goal of universal primary education for all by the Government, need to be reinforced through intensified awareness campaigns to change the attitude of rural parents in particular. The Women's Educationists Association (WEA), established in July 1994, as a national chapter of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), has started to advocate for increased participation, retention and achievement of female students, as per the goal it has set upon its inception. The initiative taken by the association is believed to contribute towards other on going endeavors, in particular in awareness creation/raising of parents and awareness of the female students. The other objective of WEA is to build up members, which would enable them to play a more active role in the development of the country.

#### Statu of Female Teachers

As illustrated in Table 5, the total number of teachers in primary schools has increased substantially from 94,657 in 1994/95 to 112,405 in 1998/99. In the case of female teachers, the number has increased from 48,657 in 1994/95 to 61,405 in 1998/99. The MCF has reserved 30 percent of the admission slots for female teachers.



than ever before. Consequently, out the 5,378 trainees at the TTIs in 1998/99, there were 2,472 females and 2,906 males. As part of the implementation of the Education and Training Policy, upgrading programs have been organized at the universities and colleges to raise the qualification and competence of existing teachers. The requirement of a primary school teacher has become a diploma and a first degree for secondary schools, with the view to improve the quality of education. Apart from improving the capacity of teachers, the government has also been able to perform better in their duties in order to boost their motivation.

In 1998/99, there were 1,000 primary and 386 secondary schools run by the private sector as well as 1,100 and this has shown an increase of 10 per cent from 1994/95. The expansion of the private sector in the education sector, in accordance with the opportunities provided in the education policy was significant. There were also four new colleges run by the government located in the Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regional States. Besides, two privately owned colleges have been recognized by the MOE while four others are in the process of full registration.

## 2.3. Education

According to the 1994 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia conducted by the CSA, the national average literacy rate for males 10 years of age and above is 23 per cent for both sexes. In 1998/99, the literacy rate was 30 per cent, that of females 23 per cent. In view of the prevalence of illiteracy in the country, the provision of education has been of great concern to the government as indicated in the Constitution and the Education and Training Policy. According to the 1998

formal education panel of the MOE. Non-Formal Basic Education (NFBE) programs have been carried out in urban and rural centers in nine regional states of the country.

shows the increase of participants in the program during the two years 1997/98 to 1998/99 has been considered. As illustrated in the table, participation of females increased by 21 percent, but that of 1997/98. However, participation descends downwards, and this could be due to possibilities of females at the household levels and distance of the center to attend the programs.

Constraints





The National Office for Population (NOP), established under MEDaC to coordinate the implementation of the policy, has made a step forward in awareness creation among the society and the increased practicing of the FP services. The NOP has established population bureaus at the regional levels, in order to facilitate implementation of the policy. It was underscored that the expansion of health facilities in the rural areas in particular has increased contraception use, along with the integrated services. The involvement of NGOs in advocacy as well as delivery of services and the participation of civil society were praiseworthy, since have contributed to the achievements registered so far. To date, contraceptive use has been increased to about 11 per cent and the population growth rate was reduced to

2.6 per cent. The role of the media and civil society, particularly the youth groups, in realizing the contents of the policy have been significant. The role of the media and civil society, particularly the youth groups, in realizing the contents of the policy have been significant.

The Ministry of Health (MOH), in realization of the need for further action, as regards FP services in the country, has prepared guidelines for FP services in 1996. The guidelines has incorporated the main contents of the different policies as well as the ICPD. The guidelines include routine medical examinations, provision of contraceptives, information and education on FP and other related issues. This has been the basis for the delivery of reproductive health services through Community Based Distribution (CBD), facility and work places as well as outreach services and social mobilization. At relevant educational institutions, to enable adolescents be informed on human sexuality, education has also been incorporated in the curriculum.

In light of the recognition of health problems in the country, the government has been from time to time increasing budget to the sector and thereby raises the coverage than before. As reported by the MOH and NOP, the health services in the country have improved from between 1994/95 to 1998/99, in accordance with the health policy and strategy. The participation of the private sector and NGOs in the endeavor was significant. The number of health establishments and coverage have increased to a certain extent.

(see Tables 7 & 8)

As regards water supply and sanitation, an increase has been registered in 1997/98.

schemes and this is higher than that of 1990/91, which was 11 per cent only. In case of sanitation, it has increased from seven to 10 per cent.

country health service delivery during the past few years, the danger

epidemic is hitting the sector in a very complicated & prevalence of HIV/AIDS has reported in 1984 and the number of cases diagnosed then was very few. The first International Conference in Ethiopia held in November 1999

and cultural situations. In Ethiopia, which is a male-dominated society, women are subordinate to men and are more exposed to social

economic dependence. About 94 per cent of those infected are between the ages of 15 to 49, which are the most productive segments of society and also caregivers to their families. In the last few years, many thousands have died, families broken up and their families are now facing a socio-economic problem to the extent that thousands of children are orphaned

throughout the country.

In order to control the rapid spread of the deadly disease, the FDRE has issued a policy on HIV/AIDS in August 1998. The policy

specifies: "To empower women, youth and other vulnerable groups to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS". Moreover, some of the emphases shall be given to women, children and youth. A special priority of 10 per cent shall be given to women, children and youth. Secondly, the empowerment of women shall be given as priority of 10 per cent. The empowerment of women shall be given as priority of 10 per cent. The empowerment of women shall be given as priority of 10 per cent.

religious organization and the society at large in their fight against HIV/AIDS. The participation

of various NGOs, which are fully engaged in the combat against the deadly

disease HIV/AIDS, through awareness creation and provision of facilities. Others

are also active in their own ways. The role being played by religious organizations in the combat

against HIV/AIDS through dissemination of information to their followers and the society at

large has been very vital.

In view of the increased danger of the epidemic and grave concern of government preparations, are underway to establish a national council on the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS under the chairmanship of the President. The council will be composed of representative from pertinent sectors in the PMO, including WAO; ministries, commissions, educational and research institutions, regional states, religious organizations, media enterprises, HIV/AIDS focused NGOs and the like. One of the specific objectives of the council is to give the necessary support to women, children and other vulnerable groups of the society to protect themselves from the disease. Similarly, one of the overall strategies is to create conditions whereby orphans and women, widowed because of the disease could receive assistance.

Moreover, the Strategic Framework for the National Response to HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia for the years from 2000 to 2004 has set its priority areas. One of these is gender equality, whose objective is to empower women and girls to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection. The coordination of efforts at the central level is believed to make a big difference in the control and prevention of the deadly disease.

### Constraints

- Low quality of services in existing health establishments
- Lack of adequate fund to expand establishments and services
- Lack of referral hospitals particularly in rural areas
- The alarming spread of the deadly disease HIV/AIDS among the productive segments of society
- Inadequate change of behavior and practice by the population to prevent the spread of the disease
- High illiteracy rate and low level of consciousness of the population
- Pressure on existing health establishments due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Decreasing trend in life and impact on life expectancy
- High population growth rate and low contraceptive use due to attitude of the population
- Lack of collaboration by male spouses to the use FP methods
- High prevalence of STIs, which affect the health of women and children

- Lack of coordination of activities in order to be more effective, avoid duplication as well as wastage of resources.

#### 4. violence against women

Violence against women are common place and manifested in various forms. Due to the and age-long beliefs and practices still prevailing in the country, the victims of violence are often seen in their homes or before a shrine or in public places. One of the forms of violence committed against women is domestic violence such as FGM, battering, sexual abuses of female children by custodians or relatives, and other AIPs. Others are outside the home such as abduction, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, physical attack, prostitution, forced prostitution, etc.

In Eritrea, talking in public about issues like rape, sexual abuses and





activities carried out by EWLA up to now, were mainly counseling, submitting legal briefs to courts and law enforcing institutions, representing clients in courts and raising awareness among the society.

- Lack of appropriate punishment on violent acts committed against women.
- Lack of adequate reporting and research on various forms of violence against women.

the judiciary and law enforcing institutions as regards the problem of the society, towards gender-biased discriminatory laws

adequate orientation and education to empower women.

many women's groups to lobby for elimination of violence against

al effects on victims of violence and lack of adequate counseling

omic effects of violence such as unwanted pregnancies, teen STDs including HIV/AIDS.

### 3. Armed Conflict

ught during the previous regime, women have been directly or indirectly affected by the destructive consequences of the wars fought up to losing lives of loved ones. The wars fought by the previous government with the liberation fronts of Eritrea and Eritrea had left hundreds of thousands of citizens either dead, disabled, displaced or exiled and the economy totally devastated. As a result of this, women were affected in various forms and there are scars left which are not yet healed.

In the areas where the wars were fought before 1991 women have been killed, imprisoned as the result of the wars and related issues. After the overthrow of the imperial military regime and the prevalence of peace and tranquility in the country, Eritrean women had rejoiced the normalization of the situation and had thought that was the last war to be fought ever on the Eritrean soil. The main

agenda of the country, since the overthrow of the military regime was nothing else but reconstruction, rehabilitation and development.

of the Ethiopian women, however, the war-mongering regime of a blatant war of aggression against their country in May 1998. Evidence, Ethiopian women were as always at the forefront, to campaign for halting the conflict and reinstatement of peace and to resolve the disputed border. Although, the Ethiopian Government its attack and conflict through peaceful means, the enemy, however, along the border, at least, has been carrying out

to the military aggressors was the bombardment of the "Alder Elementary School" in Mekelle, capital of the Tigray Regional a grain storage at Adigat town, eastern zone of the region, both in June. The air raids at the school have been carried out twice: a cluster bomb of 20 minutes and consequently, 48 people were killed and 134 others wounded. Out of them pregnant, who came to the rescue of the raid. The second bombardment was parents and other civilians as well. At Adigat, while four persons were killed and deeply saddened the Ethiopian people, territorial integrity by paying the sacrifices

by the invading troops in the occupied territories and others on their way against their will. During the surprise attack at Badene (North-Western), in May 1998, four women who were in labor at a health center have been killed and 153 others wounded. Furthermore, 30 women have been forced to become pregnant by men whom they don't know. In addition, 82 people were killed and 153 others wounded due to the implanted landmines in their homesteads, farms and the like. It was also reported that a total of 82 people were killed and 153 others wounded due to the implanted landmines. In the areas invaded, normal life has been disrupted, social services like schools and health establishments have been destroyed and economic development activities have been hindered. Despite such barbaric aggression and atrocities committed against Ethiopia and the targeting at civilian population particularly school children, there was reluctance on the side of the international community to condemn the act and releasing relief aid to displaced victims.

As regards the Ethiopian Government, it has displayed maximum restraint despite

particularly defenseless and innocent civilians. The FDRE Government staff had called upon the Eritrean regime: to withdraw its troops from the territory it allegedly claims and thereafter come to the negotiating table to seek solution to the problem. It has been tirelessly appealing to the international community, to intervene and avert the dangers of an all-out war and its consequences.

Ethiopia's acceptance of the peace proposals forwarded by the governments of Rwanda and the USA at the beginning, and later on the OAU summit, and the government consistently upholds its genuine stance for peace. Making is the culture of the Ethiopian people. No solution has been found to the problem yet.

The January 2000 report of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) indicated that there are 349,837 people displaced due to aggression but of which about 5.1 per cent are women and children. A total 315,936 are those people displaced from their localities in the central and eastern parts of Tigray Regional State as well as others elsewhere. Also some 33,901 persons displaced in other Regional States. In the border with Eritrea. These victims of aggression had lost all their possessions, properties looted, burnt down, family members separated or dislocated, and are now in surprise attack of the enemy troops. Since people fled to safety because of their other members of the family. Many were separated from their parents and others not yet able to do so.

They have been so far assisted in five types of emergency living arrangements: host homes and communities, no accommodation were obliged as safe heaven from shelling and caves have been suffering due to Pregnant women have delivered and sanitating measures. In the communicable diseases are rampant.

It was further reported that those of emergency living arrangements: host homes and communities, no accommodation were obliged as safe heaven from shelling and caves have been suffering due to Pregnant women have delivered and sanitating measures. In the

Ethiopian women being very much concerned about the escalation of the attack from the Eritrean side, have been staging demonstrations in many urban centers, calling on the enemy to put hands off their country. The one in Addis Ababa, was the biggest ever staged by women in the country and the demonstrators had reiterated their call made earlier on. Besides, a peace conference was organized and

to negotiate on the situation created and work towards peace. The peace conference was also attended by representatives of the society and participants made a call to women in the Eritrean side ever to contribute towards ending the conflict.

of the conference likewise made a call to their sisters in Eritrea, to the cause of peace and to pressurize their government to abide by and accept the peace proposals put forward by the OAU and the UN.

A similar call was made by conference participants to all peace-loving of the international community, to stand by their side and help in halting Eritrean attack against their country. Ethiopian women were

continued  
bringing  
of diffi  
country

The pa  
join ha  
the rul  
Security  
loving  
halting

## Constraints

- Damage done on innocent civilians, particularly women and children.
- Massive displacement, loss of immense property and destitution.

... of many social service establishments and development ...

... to render adequate assistance to victims of aggression.

... of aggression and ...

... on the socio-economic situation of the country.

## 6. Women and the

### 6.1. Agriculture

... in the rural areas ...

... women to the subsistence agricultural production has ...

... hence not given an economic value. Ethiopian women were early ...

... to have access to and control over production resources and therefore remained in ...

... the category of the poorest of the poor.

... Rural women were also disadvantaged due to lack of basic services, including ...

... energy sources. Consequently, the majority of rural ...

... time in fetching water and collecting fuel wood ...

... the result of the social division of labor, women in the rural ...

... technological devices to minimize ...

... of Ethiopia ...

... their workload. As indicated in the previous chapters, ...

... such issues were most of the time under ...

... segregated on gender basis.

... of the situation has considered agricultural ...

... of the existing poverty and realization of ...

... mentioned earlier, it mapped out the ADLI ...

... ear Program on Development, Peace and ...

... of rural areas and the people. This was ...

... aimed at addressing problems of unemployment and low agricultural productivity.

... Women, who have been playing a great role in agricultural produ...

... potable water supply

... women spend a lot

... hours a day.

... participate in any opportunity

... reported and even if done so.

... The government being fully

... development, as the key to the

... economic growth in the country

... strategy and also adopted

... Democracy, which unfolds



access to agricultural technologies, credit, training and information as well as other production inputs.

Another favorable condition created to enhance the participation of rural women in agricultural development was the launching of the current National Extension Program. The program has given emphasis to the small holder farmer including women both EHHs and married and hence have started to benefit from it.

According to information compiled by the WAD in the Ministry of Agriculture, 2965128 farmers have participated in an extension program, particularly in crop production, during the harvest years of 1997 to 1999. Out of these, 136134 were women and this is 4.58 per cent of the total. Their participation rate of women is very low as compared to that of men and this could be due to the lack of land by majority of rural women.

The Constitution of Ethiopia states that women have the right in acquiring, control, use and transfer property. In particular, they have equal rights with men with respect to the inheritance of land. The same Constitution states that the right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as all natural resources, is vested in the State and in the peoples of Ethiopia. The right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as all natural resources, shall not be exercised by individuals and shall not be

As a result, the Proclamation on the Administration of Rural Lands, No. 66/1996 has been issued and it became a milestone for the improvement of the status of



need for more participatory agricultural development initiative, including women and thereby ensures their benefiting on sustainable basis.

As repeatedly indicated earlier, the contribution of rural women to agricultural development in particular to food security at the household level was significant. However, there were no adequate research and studies conducted to assess the situation and generate information and data. Even if some research works on women's issues have been conducted, their findings were not properly

<p>Training and Information on Women for Development Institute of Development Research (IDR) of the Addis Ababa University has been entrusted with the responsibility of generating gender issues. Accordingly, the center has been enhancing various means including the sponsoring of postgraduate students on gender issues and concerns. Nevertheless, comprehensive research works and studies are very scarce and the information and data to be generated are very</p>	<p>disseminated at The Center for (CERTWID), Addis Ababa University information and research works students to write their so much more is desired so the information and data to be generated are very</p>
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Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of activities.

- Lack of access to and control over resources, by the majority of rural women.
- Lack of appropriate technology of services to reduce the workload of women at the household level.
- Lack of alternative energy sources to residues and cow dung used in many places.
- Lack of equal access to credit services to engage in off-farm activities to augment family income.
- High illiteracy rate among rural women having no skills to supply of reasonable income, by saving productive time and energy.
- Absence of development agents to motivate and empower rural women.
- Inadequate skills to generate information and disseminated data.
- High population growth rate, putting pressure on farmland.

## 6.2 Employment

## 6.2.1. Formal Sector

half of the country's population have low status in the economy, particularly in the formal sector of employment. Ethiopian women though constitute the total employed people in the country. Women make up only a small part of this. This was resulted from gender biases in recruitment of female candidates and their low level of education and training. Although the present government has created fertile ground for the increased participation of women in the employment sector, these measures are insignificant as compared to the magnitude of the gender gap. The actual problem are

the measures taken by the government to improve the employment situation was the issuance of the Labor Law Proclamation No. 42/1993. This law has incorporated important provisions on women's rights, as contained in the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions, CEDAW and other international instruments. The proclamation is in harmony with the principles enshrined in the FDRE Constitution, although it was issued earlier.

The proclamation has extensively dealt with the rights of working women and has prohibited their discrimination during recruitment, appointment or salary and promotion on grounds of sex. The same Article has also banned the assignment of women in jobs hazardous to their health, while those pregnant women are exempted from being assigned on night or overtime works. Another Article 88 has guaranteed pregnant women paid time-off for medical check ups, pre-natal leave of

account the nature of the work, the health of the mother and the well-being of the child and family". It further notes that, "Maternity leave may, in accordance with the provisions of law, include prenatal leave with full pay". Moreover, MOLSA,

has issued directives in August 1995 to prohibit employers from assigning female employees in arduous jobs which could be hazardous to their health and also affect their reproductive system. |

in more regards regarding article 25(3) of the Constitution states that "historical legacy" of inequality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia

Likewise, as shown in Tables 11 and 12, changes made in the spirit of the Constitution, proclamations and directives, have been insignificant since employment opportunities for women are still lower than that of men. Despite government support, there is a visible reluctance to enable women employees get share of employment opportunities in the civil service. As the result of the re-education process that has been going on in the country during the previous 10 years, opportunities have been higher in the regions rather than at the federal level. However, the gender gap is still wide although the number of women employed in the federal

## 6.2.2. Informal Sector

In Ethiopia, where low socio-economic situation prevails, the formal sector could not absorb more job seekers as needed. It is therefore the informal sector which is the alternative and major area of employment of the country. Women have a bigger share in operating the informal sector. This has been confirmed by surveys conducted earlier. According to a survey conducted by the CSA and MOLSA in urban centers of the country, 65.57 per cent of informal sector operators are women. It was further revealed in the survey that women constitute some 64.92 per cent of the work force employed in the sector.

Similarly, the survey conducted in rural areas and urban centers of the country indicated that, out of the 1,311,745 people engaged in the informal sector, 57.78 per cent were rural and 42.22 per cent were urban. The main types of activities in which the operators were engaged are manufacturing of food items and beverage (such as textiles as well as non-metallic mineral products) such as pottery. The participating of more women in the sector is due to the fact that the type of business they have been engaged in does not require a substantial amount of money to run. It can also be done from home for too long. However, lack of adequate working capital to expand the business, heavy and time-consuming household responsibilities and lack of main constraints of women informal sector operators. working premises have been cited to be constraining factors.

In realization of the problems faced by those engaged in the informal sector, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is planning to play a role in employment creation that can be played by the sector in employment creation.

Earlier, schemes have been organized and credit disbursed to needy sections of society and those engaged were mostly government organizations, who used to secure fund mainly from UN agencies particularly UNDP and UNICEF. Similarly, NGOs have been disbursing credit, as a component of their development projects or programs. However, after the issuance of the proclamation, which was meant to put a legal framework to the overall organization and operation of credit delivery system, some organizations have been registered as MFIs while others are reorganizing their schemes to prepare for licensing. Currently, there are more than

both urban and rural including women. 10 MFIs in the country assisting in set up and is believed to assist in Recently, an Association of MFIs, exchanging ideas and sharing experiences to help improve and expand services

Development in Ethiopia, held in Addis Ababa since the NBE licensing it has been indicated that out of the total number of clients cent were females. A total of 525.4 million birr has been disbursed clients from 1996 to June 1999, the major share being that of Development Savings Institution (DECSI) and The Amhara Credit and Savings Inst

st. of these institutions have focused women as the main targets of their program.

likewise, the MOTI has been since 1993/94 disbursing micro enterprises credit to engage in small businesses to contribute to economic growth. The credit has been secured from the WB in line with an agreement reached. The credit has been disbursed through the regional MOTI bureaus on pilot basis in areas where a good business environment exists. In selected towns, where some 21,157 town's people and SNNP Regional States

transaction. According to the report of the who formed associations in Tigray, Amhara of the have benefited from the program during the years 1993/94 to number of beneficiaries, 92.4 percent were females

established in 1992 has an objective to improving and promoting the quality of life. It has also to improve the status of women entrepreneurs and organize those with ties in nine regions but are not as active as desired. EWEA had organized Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs in October

1998 and the occasion helped to popularize Ethiopian products among the participants.

## Constraints

- High illiteracy rate, particularly among women, hinders their ability to start and expand businesses.
- Lack of marketable skills to meet the needs of the market.
- Lack of access to modern technology, particularly in rural areas.
- Lack appropriate technological devices to lighten the workload of rural women.
- Inadequate potable water supply and energy source to save productive time and energy.
- Inadequate job opportunities to cater to the ever increasing employment needs.
- High population growth rate and rapid increase of labor force.

People's Representatives 13 were women. Similarly, seven women have been

in 1999, 11 were elected to the House of Representatives, the number of total members being 126. Out of those 11 women, 7 were elected to parliamentary seats, one is

results of the previous election showed that women's participation as candidates for holding parliamentary seats was very low. Therefore, there is a need to promote a growth of women through awareness, capacity building and training, such as human and legal rights and thereby build their capacities. Side by



policy and programs implementation is the  
 in the country, which has not properly

concerned and internalized the concepts of and purposes for gender equality. This  
 has been the result of the socio-economic standard of people in the country, whose  
 well as the time span since democratic principles have been adopted. However  
 conceptualization of issues, which affect almost half of the country's popula-  
 and work towards attaining the set goals are very vital.

The big challenge in the pro-  
 attitude of the majority of the

le focal points have been formed within certain sector administration co-  
bureaus in the regional states.

ibilities of the WADs. As stated in the NPEW, among the major duties a  
er issues are properly incorporated in the and the WABs is making sur  
insure that gender issues are properly incorporated in the plans and programs considered during research and stud  
es. In addition, have been accorded particular considerations. App  
departments and bureaus have been doing their part in the  
ams of their mainstreaming of gender issues and concerns in the plans  
rumental in respective ministries and regional states. They have also  
organizing creating gender awareness of their staff members. In

are among the tasks. WADs and WABs are also creating  
ted by the WADs in ministries and corporations. WADs and WABs are also  
e were many instances when the gender issues have been left aside. How  
em as concerns of the women's departments and bureaus only. In cons

ions. Inter-departmental cooperation and collaboration were not to mos  
ed level. Furthermore, most WADs and WABs have been facing financial  
encountered by these constraints to carry out duties as desired. Anothe  
ted human power and non-bureaucratic and non-departmental and bureaus was lack of adequate  
discharge duties and responsibilities entrusted to th

by the institutional mechanisms established in accordance with. The  
advocating the gender issues and concerns at all levels has been  
The workshops/seminars conducted have helped to popularize  
different sectoral policies, human and social development of women  
as contained in the FDRE Constitution and hence have created/raised awareness of li  
relevant segments of the society. The role of other organizations, in particular UN

and women's associations in the advocacy of the NPEW.

**Capacity Building**

and WABs have made a headway in building the capacity of the  
leagues in particular, to be conscious about their rights and actively  
in the implementation of the NPEW as well as other sector policies, and

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thereby benefit from them. Furthermore, sensitization and capacity building have been conducted to core staff of the respective organizations and are believed to make a difference to some extent.

The Institutional Development Fund (IDF), established under the auspices of the Government of India in 1997 with a fund secured from the UNFPA, has been supporting various community women's organizations in the area of participatory planning and implementation of projects. The IDF has been instrumental in providing training with skills necessary for participatory planning and implementation of projects and was done through conducting training workshops aimed at equipment implementation of

#### 8.4. Networking

In line with the responsibility entrusted to it, WAO has been establishing contacts and strengthening existing relations with as well as rendering the necessary support to organizations engaged in women/gender areas and concerns. These include



Ethiopia, as one of the founder members of the UN, has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, DEVAW and the CRD and other international legal instruments, which could facilitate the advancement of women in the country. In line with the commitment it entered earlier, the Government has considered the provisions contained in these international conventions to be incorporated in its Constitution and other legal documents.

The main areas of focus during the revision and eventual amendment of the family law were the discriminatory provisions in relation to marriage and family relations such as marriageable age, conditions for concluding marriage, relationship of spouses and their roles in home management as well as choosing place of

## Constraints

- Predominance of customary laws over the modern ones.

Deep roots of cultural beliefs and traditional practices of society.

Inadequate public awareness on existing laws.

Limited capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

Slow pace in implementation of policies and programs.



As far as coverage is concerned, the ETV and Radio have regular programs on women, while the newspapers published under the Ethiopian press have columns or pages with the view to informing and educating the public on gender issues and concerns. However, these programs are observed to mainly cover activities of urban women and this was said to be due to budget constraints to travel to rural areas, where the majority and those most in need of such programs live. Despite this, it is undeniable that the role played by the media in popularizing the legal and human rights of women as enshrined in the Constitution, the policies and proclamations issued and the strategies mapped out at various times, has been commendable.

The part performed by the journals and magazines of sector organizations in covering and highlighting gender issues at different times has been important. The role of the private news outlets in popularizing gender issues, although to a limited extent is also worth mentioning. Nevertheless, there is a need for more awareness creation/raising of journalists on gender issues and concerns, since the media is one of the main tools for disseminating information to the public in order to change the attitude of the majority. Widespread ignorance, more so in rural areas, is under the cloak of deeply rooted cultural beliefs and traditional practices.

regards to the image of women in the media, which used to look down upon women, there has been a substantial improvement and was due to the dissemination of information and education to that effect and the change of attitude of society, to a limited extent. In the case of women's participation as beneficiaries of information from the media, there is little awareness to that effect although it is guaranteed by the different provisions. As mentioned earlier, it is mostly urban women which is most of the time covered in the media, but it does not mean that they are properly utilizing it for advancing their causes. In rural areas cannot be expected to be aware of their rights to media until

1999. The Ethiopian Media Women's Association (EMWA) established in 1999 has set objectives to build capacity and professional skills. This is believed to improve the image of women in the media than ever before, by combatting and gender-biases.

#### Constraints

1. Lack of institutional mechanisms for mainstreaming gender issues in the media.  
2. Lack of training on journalistic skills and career development.

- Lack of adequate budget to cover as many issues as possible as regards gender equality in the rural areas. The main reasons are:
  - Inadequate attitudinal change and stereotypical gender roles.
  - Inadequate representation of women in the decision-making procedures.
  - Lack of motivation to female journalists through promotion opportunities.

### 10. Women and the Environment

Ethiopian women are very much attached to the environment since they use technological devices to supplement the use of the natural resources. They are also concerned about environmental protection and reliable soil and water conservation. This has been manifested by their active participation in making follow up for their endeavors, nursery development, tree planting etc. However, there are no reliable data source to show the extent of women's participation and contributions.

Despite their attachment to natural resources, women have little access to and control over the resources, and therefore authority in decision-making be it within the family or at community levels. Despite their attachment to natural resources, women are not involved in the designing of projects and programs in relation to the environment. It is ascertained that women especially the poor are affected by ecological changes since they rely on natural resources for their subsistence, such as water, fuel, and fodder.

Due to the ecological changes, crop production has been for years reduced and crop production has decreased. In Ethiopia, where women have been used to be affected due to their responsibility in the family and this is a great loss to them, such as the soil erosion, drought and famine, it is women who will be left behind with their children, since male spouses are more likely to seek for off-farm jobs.

On the other hand, the cultivable farmlands have been over-utilized and not many effective measures were taken to regain the fertility of the soil and thus reduce crop production. Furthermore, as the result of deforestation the soil including topsoil has also been washed away easily by rains in many places.

and poverty.

Recognizing the need for environmental and rehabilitation, the government has issued the Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (1997). In recognition to the attachment and extensive utilization of natural resources as well as the vital role played by women in environmental management, the policy has given focus to women's active participation in the implementation process.

One of the key guiding principles of the policy states that, "As key actors in natural resources use and management, women shall be treated equally with men and encouraged to be totally involved in policy program and project design, decision-making and implementation". As regards to community development, one of the focuses of the policy is "To increase the number of women extension agents in the field of natural resource environmental management". Likewise, on social and gender issues, it focuses "To facilitate the participation of women across all sections of the country through training, public awareness campaigns, formal and informal education".

As far as water resources is concerned, the recently adopted Ethiopian Water Resources Management Policy has placed emphasis to women's role in. Among the fundamental principles of the policy is the "Promotion of participation of all stakeholders, users, communities, particularly participation in the relevant aspects of water resources management, consideration of gender as a cross-cutting issue, the policy focuses on the full involvement of women in planning, project preparation, implementation, training, decision making, and create an environment for empowering them to play a leading role in self initiatives and as the legal framework, which provide legal basis for active and participation of all stakeholders, including users associations, particularly for women to play the central role in water resources management.

It seeks to involve water resources users, particularly women and animal herders, in the planning, design, implementation and follow up in their localities of water policies, programs and projects, so as to carry out various activities that the economic balance.

On the other hand, the Irrigation policy has one of its general objectives to promote decentralization and users based management of irrigation systems taking into account the special needs of rural women in particular.

In the recent years, the role of women farmers is significantly recognized and their participation and role in natural resources management and protection. The focuses given by the EPE and CSE, to the participation and benefiting of women from these important resources and the ever increasing awareness would sooner or later improve the situation.

It was reported that there has been observed an increasing awareness of the role of women in regional conservation strategies. An increase in popularizing the contents of this is a very encouraging trend. The role of the EPE in the contribution of women organizations has also been appreciated.

Concurrently, there is a need for to improve the capacity of women in all spheres of the environment, women can play a significant role in the improvement, management and utilization of natural resources on a sustainable basis. Nevertheless, to meet the needs, there is a need for having a differentiated approach.

## Constraints

al protection and

f fire wood, cow

men in project planning and implementation.

men's involvement in natural resources protection

e, putting great pressure on natural resources.

use policy and land use planning procedures.

t and/or monitoring and evaluation indicators.

- Lack of public awareness on role of women in en management.
- Lack of women's access to use natural resources
- Lack of alternative energy sources to substitute exce dung and crop residues.

Factor of participa

- Inadequate resea and management
- High population
- Absence of land
- Lack of impact

## 12. The Girl Child

tical abstract, the total population of children below

age of 14 is 27,352,926 out of which 15,557,787 are females. Despite the number

the girl child has been discriminated against boys starting from home by members

and other institutions. In Ethiopia, the discrimination of the girl child has been

supported by deep-rooted and age-long cultural beliefs and traditional

of women. Discriminatory laws, have been extensively hampering the

and children of equal footing with fellow male citizens.

however being of concern on particular among others, the girl child are employed un

text of religion and preservation of the girl child are employed un

According to the 1997 base line survey conducted by the NTCPE, the

armful practices employed on the girl child have been identified. Some of the

IM, early marriage and abduction. As indicated in the previous

undergone the practice in different

survey, 73 per cent of women in Eth

at states, which causes serious health complications starang

till death, has been combated by conducting

at various levels

information and educat

The NCTPE initially established under the auspices of the MOH in 1987 has been coordinating the campaigns in collaboration with relevant organizations, NGOs, religious leaders, women, youth and other segments of the society. A similar survey done way back in 1985 had estimated that 90 per cent of the then female population in the country underwent RGM to be about 90 per cent of the then female population in the country. The decrease in the practice is attributable to the campaign waged so far.

Early marriage is another HTP committed on the girl child, most of the time without her consent. This is mainly practiced in the rural areas. According to the NCTPE survey, areas like Tigray and Amhara Regional States where the act is widely spread. The act had been endorsed by the Civil Code of Ethiopia when states that marriageable age will be 16 years. It has been now amended recently and set to be endorsed by parliament.

The combat being waged by the members of WAT in Southern Tigray against early marriage has been reported to make a breakthrough. The intended victims of the association, on an average, 686 of them were rescued through the persuasion and conviction of their parents. The intended victims were rescued at the age of 15 and those rescued were counseled by members of WAT.

The most serious forms of exploitation committed on female children are abduction. Since the victims or parents consider such incidences as shameful and believe will be ridiculed if uncover the cases, most of the time reported to the police and no serious punishment is given. The effects of the legal literacy conducted through different campaigns are being reported these days and offenders taken to court as many as they are, still remain to be under reported. Article 589 of the Penal Code considers rape to be punishable with imprisonment of up to 10 years. Courts do not execute it accordingly and there is a need for remedial action at the earliest time possible.

The other type of violence against the girl child is abduction, though traditionally considered as one form of concluding marriage. The practice is widespread in regional states like SNNPR and Oromia. Abduction is committed in these areas



wage an all-out war against violence committed against females, with particular reference to rape and abduction. These crimes, apart from creating devastation of the victim, have a retrogressive effect on the enrolment and retention of female students particularly in rural areas where schools are not fairly accessible.

In order to overcome such problems of children, MOLSA has established

committees on children's rights at the regional as well as kebele levels. It has also prepared an operational manual in the context of the Constitution and distributed it for use. Furthermore, it has translated the convention document into 11 different languages and disseminated it in respective regions. However, much more is left in protection of children, particularly in alleviating the problems of those in difficult circumstances whose number has been always on the increase one way or another.

At present, there are no many programs/projects of responsible government organization or others. However, UNICEF and NGOs, like the Forum for street children are trying to address the children's problems, particularly those who are mostly exposed to diverse socio-economic problems.

#### Constraints

- Wide spread poverty and the need of children

Lack of awareness of the public on the rights of children.

Inadequate capacity of the judiciary and law enforcing institutions.

Effects of divorce, displacement, and migration, which destabilize the lives of children.

Effects of lack of adequate schools.

Lack of adequate course.

Lack of legal mechanism to redress.

Effects of violence, particularly

such as streetism, prostitution, teen motherhood,

STDs, meningitis, HIV/AIDS, etc.

Increased number of

Violence against women.

As indicated in the preceding parts of the report, there is a

need for the improvement of the status of Ethiopian women and





associations and other groups who wish to form same, as guaranteed in the Constitution will be enhanced since would help as pressure groups to popularize lobby to attain desired goals. issues and wage a campaign to secure further collaboration and commitment of planners and decision makers. Taking gender issues as equally significant as other national concerns, development could not be ignored and almost half of the country's population affected and disadvantaged. There is a strong belief that the tasks required as in above, need to be considered as a national duty, because advancement is part and parcel of nation building. Personal duty, because advancement to achieve what is desired in this regard, an intensive training and programming is required of them. In the GAD and other related issues are new concepts and approaches to our country and heretofore training and retraining of those engaged in the tasks could not be overlooked. It is realized that changing beliefs and practices of people particularly adults is not mechanical and needs a lot of time and efforts.

Moreover, there is a great need to secure fund to carry out the diverse activities aimed at promoting issues and concerns and thereby register tangible results in advancement of women and eventually achieve gender equality. Efforts will be advanced to popularize the necessity of continuing gender disaggregated data sector organizations, to enable develop the culture so that it could be reflected in budget breakdown, development plans and programs as well as performance reports. Similarly, researching institutions focusing on women particularly encouraged to generate more information and CERTWID will be the necessary instrument and evaluation of outcomes will be set so that achievements could be quantified. Likewise, some mechanisms will be devised in order to assess impact of activities on targeted beneficiaries.

Facilitating the coordination of efforts of those government organizations, NGOs as well as civic associations will be another area which requires focus since scattered activities could not generate as many positive results as needed. More forums will also be created for exchanging ideas and share experiences among organizations performing tasks to attain common goals. Moreover, networking with UN agencies, bilateral as well as other international organizations will be cemented while other areas need to be explored for networking.

Having these and other similar tasks to crop up in future, there is a great enthusiasm and dedication of those devoted to the improvement of the status of women in Ethiopia which constitute about half of the total Population. With the

aid with concerned citizens, the government being of the country as well as the disadvantaged population in the years to come. I hope that a major breakthrough will be made.

Table 1

**Enrolment of Students in Primary Schools  
(Grades 1 - 8)**

Year	Total No. of		Boys	Girls	Percentage Of Girls
	Students	Students			
1984/85	3,125,173	3,125,173	3,125,173		100%
1985/86	3,138,633	3,138,633	3,138,633		100%
1986/87	2,394,424	2,394,424	2,394,424		100%
1987/88	2,842,391	2,842,391	2,842,391		100%
1988/89	3,027,448	3,027,448	3,027,448		100%

Journal Abstract

Source: Education Statistics

Table 2

Secondary Schools

Enrolment of S

percentage 81

Total No

Table 3

## Gross Enrolment Ratio in Primary and Secondary Schools

Primary Schools (Grades 1-8)				Secondary Schools (Grades 9-12)			
Year	Total	Male	Female	Year	Total	Male	Female
1994/95	26.2	31.7	20.4	1994/95	6.6	7.5	5.7
1995/96	30.1	36.6	22.7	1995/96	8.1	9.3	7.0
1996/97	34.7	43.0	26.0	1996/97	8.4	9.9	7.0
1997/98	41.8	52.0	31.2	1997/98	8.9	10.3	7.4
1998/99	45.8	55.9	35.3	1998/99	9.7	11.3	8.0

Education Statistics Annual Abstract

Table 4

## Education Institutions

Total No. of Registered Students

Year	Total No. of Registered Students		Total No. of Graduates	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1994/95	13,975	118	13,916	2,059
1995/96	17,378	337	15,531	1,858
1996/97	21,051	657	18,067	2,984



Table 7

**Number of Health Establishments  
Government, Private Sector and NGOs**

Types of Establishment	Year		Percentage
	1994/95	1997/98	Increase
Hospitals	85	93	9.4%
Health Centers	187	279	33%
Stations	491	722	31%
Maternal Beds	9,673	11,371	15%

Source: Health and Health Care

Table 8

Types of	Year	Percentage
Antenatal Care	20.7%	30.4%
Delivery Services	7%	9%





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Category	1994/95	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Professors	87	11	55	223
Associate Professors	10	5	158	5
Senior Professors	68	8	23	338
College Deans	30	161	9	88
Administrators	35	29	135	45
Cashiers	324	226	170	321
Speakers	84	6	70	34
Apprentices	9	170	321	70
Not Staff	46	20	59	390
Students	608	390	59	390

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Source: Civil Statistics

Statistics



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