

ETHIOPIA GENDER SNAPSHOT



OXFAM

AS OF APRIL 2017

7.6 MILLION

People in need of food assistance

2.7 MILLION

People in need of supplementary food

9.1 MILLION

People in need of potable water

ETHIOPIA COUNTRY PROFILE

Ethiopia is among the world's fastest growing economies registering on average 10% GDP growth per annum for the last 12 years. Despite this, more than 23% of the population live under the poverty line and millions of people have been chronically vulnerable to food insecurity and dependent on national safety-net programmes.

In 2017, while Ethiopia battles the residual needs from El-Nino induced drought with below average rains in the southern and eastern parts of the country, a new drought has emerged caused by the Indian Ocean Dipole effect in the southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, namely Somali, SNNPR, Afar and Oromia regions. As a result of the drought, 7.6 million people are food insecure and about 2.7 million children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers are mal-nourished. Loss of livelihood and means of food production have also resulted in internal displacement of many, about half a million people in Somali region alone.

Pastoralist young girl in the drought affected site in Somali region, Ethiopia. Photo by Tina Hiller/ Oxfam

COUNTRY GENDER CONTEXT

Ethiopia has taken significant steps in ensuring gender equality in the country over the past twenty five years. The country has adopted a number of international conventions that ensured equality of men and women and developed national policy instruments and legal reforms to enable implementation of the international conventions. The major key international convention ratified by Ethiopia is the CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women) in 1981. The development of national policy on women followed in 1993 stipulating equal participation of women in national, social, economic and political life and laying the ground for creation of women's machineries to institutionalize the strategy of women's empowerment.

The 1995 constitution guaranteed equal rights for women in employment, property ownership such as land, inheritance and marriage. It also entitled women to affirmative action to fight and remedy prevailing inequality. It further nullified all customary practices and laws that discriminated against women. This was followed by the revision of the family law in 2000, firmly giving equal rights to women and men as heads of the household, ensuring women's right to equal share of property in marriage and divorce and stipulating the minimum age for marriage. In 2005, another huge step towards ensuring equal rights of women was taken when the penal code was revised and a number of customary practices such as early marriage, FGM and marriage by abduction were criminalized. Furthermore, domestic violence was criminalized and severe punishment was also given to the crime of rape, doing away with the previous law that allowed the perpetrator to go free, if rape is resolved through marriage.

Progress towards gender equality is made on several fronts, although gaps still persist. Women's representation in leadership and decision making positions has gradually increased, with 27% of national parliamentary seats, 30% of the Judiciary and 13% of decision making positions in the executive branch occupied by women. On education, gender parity has narrowed at primary level, while it still persists at secondary level due to various factors that affect girls including: cultural norms, work load, lack of gender sensitive school infrastructures,

distance and violence or fear of violence while travelling to school.

Improvement is observed on several reproductive health indicators such as, decline in maternal mortality, increased access and use of contraceptives, declining fertility rates and teenage pregnancy. However, huge disparities exist across regions with Somali region performing the lowest on almost all of the reproductive health indicators. And despite the progress made, women's weak decision making power on their reproductive health, such as use of contraceptives, continues to be a challenge. Women are also more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, due to several factors that limit their negotiation power, such as economic dependence, violence or fear of violence.

In the economic sector, land certification is one of the most progressive steps taken to ensure women's access and ownership of land, which is vital in a country where 80% of the population lives in rural areas and is dependent on agriculture. Yet, less number of women have access to certified land ownership compared to men and the average size of land owned by female headed households is significantly lower than average land size owned by male headed households. Unemployment rate is higher for women compared to men.

Despite the progress made to eliminate harmful traditional practices (HTPs) that affect women, various forms of HTPs still prevail. FGM is still highly practiced in Somali, Afar, Oromia and in pocket areas in SNNPR, with prevalence rates of 98%, 77% and 92% respectively. Although, early marriage is showing a declining trend at the national level, there are hotspot districts distributed throughout the country where there is high prevalence of early marriage, with as high as above 50% prevalence rate. Preliminary

findings from the 2016 demographic and health survey show national prevalence rate of intimate partner domestic violence to be 35%, with higher prevalence rate in rural than urban areas and among those with primary or lower education levels. Nationally, about 68% of women and 45% of men believe wife beating is justified for a given number of reasons .

Although there are strong legal provisions on harmful practices and violence against women, the capacity to implement legal frameworks is limited. Lack of awareness on the part of law enforcement personnel and weak accountability systems coupled with competing social norms and customary practices limit the implementation of laws. Ethiopian civil society law currently prevents international organisations from working on women's rights and limits the resource mobilization ability of Ethiopian NGOs working on women rights thus disqualifying them from supporting works to eliminate violence and harmful practices affecting women and girls.

GENDERED IMPACT OF THE CURRENT DROUGHT EMERGENCY (2016/17)

Humanitarian crisis situations further exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and reinforce unequal gender norms. Women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihood, security and lives. Studies show women are more likely to die than men in natural disasters such as droughts, floods and storms due to structural gender inequality. Women and girls also face heightened risk due to displacement and break down of normal protection structures and support. 1 in 5 women among refugees or displaced people are exposed to sexual violence. The prevalence of some harmful practices such as child marriage also increases. About 60% preventable maternal deaths occur in setting of conflict, displacement and natural disasters .

Various assessments during the current drought in Ethiopia reveal women and girls are among the worst affected. In 2016, Oxfam and CARE conducted a comprehensive gender analysis in seven drought affected zones across four

regions in Ethiopia: Somali, Oromia, Afar and Amhara. The assessment revealed that infants, elderly people and pregnant and breast-feeding women are most affected by food insecurity and that women and girls are de-prioritized in household food consumption compared to other family members. It further indicated that, although income generating opportunities were reduced for both men and women, women were most affected by reduction of income from loss of livestock. The burden of unpaid care work has increased for women living in temporary settlements and that women continue to be excluded from decision making processes, both at household and community level. The likelihood of domestic violence and other forms of GBV also increased for women and girls, especially while accessing services.

Assessments carried out by the Protection Humanitarian Cluster in 2016 and 2017 reinforced the findings from the Gender Analysis of Oxfam and CARE, with a particular emphasis on protection and GBV issues. The Meher assessment conducted by the Protection Cluster during November- December 2016 revealed that violence against women and girls and domestic violence have increased in drought affected areas. Limited provision of services in the temporary settlements has created protection risks for the most vulnerable groups. For example, there are no provisions of temporary/emergency latrines in the camps, leading to open defecation and safety concerns for women and children as they mostly access the open defecation sites during the night. Limited access to water in some camps requires women to travel long distances in search of water, which further creates protection related risks.

Findings from the Protection Cluster field mission (March 2017) to three temporary settlements in Doolo and Gashamo zones revealed unequal access to life saving services by the most vulnerable groups



3 Pastoralist women in search of water in Somali region Ethiopia where millions are affected by the current drought.

Photo by Tina Hiller/ Oxfam

and the existence of protection needs. Elderly people and people with disability have difficulties to access services. For example, in Doolo, food and water is accessed from feeding centers located in 2 to 4 hours walking distance from the settlements, which limit access for people with disability and the elderly. Security risks are heightened for women and children as they access WaSH services.

In Gashamo district, in addition to shortage of water, distribution sites are located far from the settlements that women and children needed to walk long distances to access water from the nearest water point. In settlements, in the absence of latrines women and girls resort to open defecation, which increases both security and health related risks. Similarly, in Doolo, absence of shelter, shower and latrine facilities expose women and girls to the risk of GBV.

Lack of gender sensitivity in provision of services is observed in the distribution of non food items (NFI) and provision of health services. In both Doolo and Gashamo, distribution of NFIs in the temporary settlements has not included distribution of dignity kits essential for women and adolescent girls, such as sanitary pads. The number of female health staff in the mobile clinics serving in the camps is also very low (and less equipped), which limits the likelihood of women accessing health services.

1 in 5 women among refugees or displaced people are exposed to sexual violence.

Infants, elderly people and pregnant and breast-feeding women are most affected by food insecurity and that woman and girls are de-prioritized in household food consumption compared to other family members.

OXFAM'S STRATEGIC ROLE AND WAY FORWARD

Oxfam's country strategy (2016-2020) puts gender equality and women's rights central to its interventions in Ethiopia. Oxfam has been playing strategic roles in Ethiopia to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through initiating and leading gender focused working groups: the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group and the Disaster Risk Management Gender Technical Working group coordinated by DRMFSS, and playing an active role in GBV CP sub cluster. Oxfam will continue to strategically engage with CSO actors, government and local community based institutions to influence positive changes on gender relations.

Oxfam is committed to respond to the current emergency crisis using its minimum standards for gender in emergency response and different other international gender standards and guides.

In its drought response strategy issued in March 2017, Oxfam commits to make its scale up humanitarian interventions gender responsive through the following overall actions:

- Utilize the findings and recommendations of the gender analysis conducted in 2016 to shape Oxfam's communication, media engagement and funding proposal development.
- Undertake rapid gender analysis in the current drought affected areas to understand the different impacts of the drought on women and girls, men and boys and to generate recommendations for mainstreamed interventions for WaSH and food security and livelihood programs
- Build and strengthen the capacity of staff and partners through training and induction on how to mainstream gender and women's empowerment in emergency response interventions
- Work with local partners and communities and engage with women rights organizations
- A strong integration of WASH, EFSVL, Protection and Gender pro

gramming to amplify the effect of the response

- Mainstream gender in interventions during immediate relief, recovery and rehabilitation stages:
- In WaSH programs, activities in the immediate relief stage include distribution of dignity kits, provision of sex disaggregated sanitation facilities that provide privacy and ensuring security and accessibility of water distribution sites for women and girls.
- At recovery and rehabilitation stage, mainstreaming activities include strengthening women's participation and role in WaSH Committees.
- In food security and livelihood programs, mainstreaming activities include, investing on and building assets controlled by women, targeting women in interventions, such as: income generating activities, access to finance/loans, and markets.
- Implement standalone activities to address gender and protection. For example, through funding from OFDA and EHF, Oxfam will set up protection teams that move around temporary settlements raising community awareness, conducting participatory risk and vulnerability analysis, training and forming community protection committees that monitor and report the occurrence of GBV and provide referral service.
- Through EHF funding, Oxfam will also pilot women and girls friendly spaces that they will use to access information on available services, policy and legal provisions protecting their rights and to dialogue with service providers on their concerns.
- Plan a gender review on the response to gauge adherence to Oxfam's minimum standards for gender in emergency

Hoden Abdi hopes for the rains to come so she can plant the seeds she received. Hoden Abdi Mohammed, 35, lives in Somali region Ethiopia with her 10 children [six girls and four boys]. She lives in a village where communities do both farming and rear animals in the arable, plain windy fields of Fafan zone [eastern part of Ethiopia]. She says 'I had a good life until last year where I completely lost everything I have to the drought; money, animals, food or water'.

Photo by Tigist Gebru/ Oxfam



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PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH INTERNAL PRACTICES



Ensure allocation of appropriate financial and human resources for the promotion of gender equality



Ensure workplace policies and procedures are in place and socialized amongst staff and partners to ensure gender equality in the workplace. These are to include anti sexual harassment HR policies.



Ensure accountability of senior management for promoting gender equality



Develop staff, partner and senior management capacity through inductions, trainings and reflections.

GENDER ANALYSIS THROUGH THE PROJECT CYCLE



In consultation with other stakeholders, collect, analyse and report on gender differences using sex and age disaggregated data (and other factors where possible/relevant) starting from onset and throughout the project cycle taking into account issues of safety and accessibility.



Gender analysis to be included in Contingency Plans, and will be linked with existing gender focused development programs.



In consultation with women, men, boys and girls, design culturally appropriate gender sensitive programs that address the needs and safety requirements of the most vulnerable and redress gender-specific injustices. The program design should incorporate a gender strategy, policy and advocacy elements.



Programming is intertwined with gender related sustainable development objectives for the country including DRR



Gender Analysis informs the development of MEAL frameworks and the implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems.



Gender Analysis informs the development and implementation of accountability and learning systems.

PARTICIPATION, DIGNITY AND EMPOWERMENT



Ensure access and participation that is equal and safe, and meaningful participation by specific gender groups in humanitarian sectoral program activities throughout the project cycle, including distributions, training and livelihood opportunities.



In consultation with women and girls, actively promote their dignity and empowerment in program design and implementation.



Develop programs that ensure women's and girl's rights are being redressed in emergencies and ensure men's and boys' support (not just consultation) making them allies.

ADDRESSING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE



Implement and monitor interventions to ensure safe programming in all situations in consultation with women, girls, men & boys.



Advocate where possible for gender responsive policies and practices with communities and local authorities.

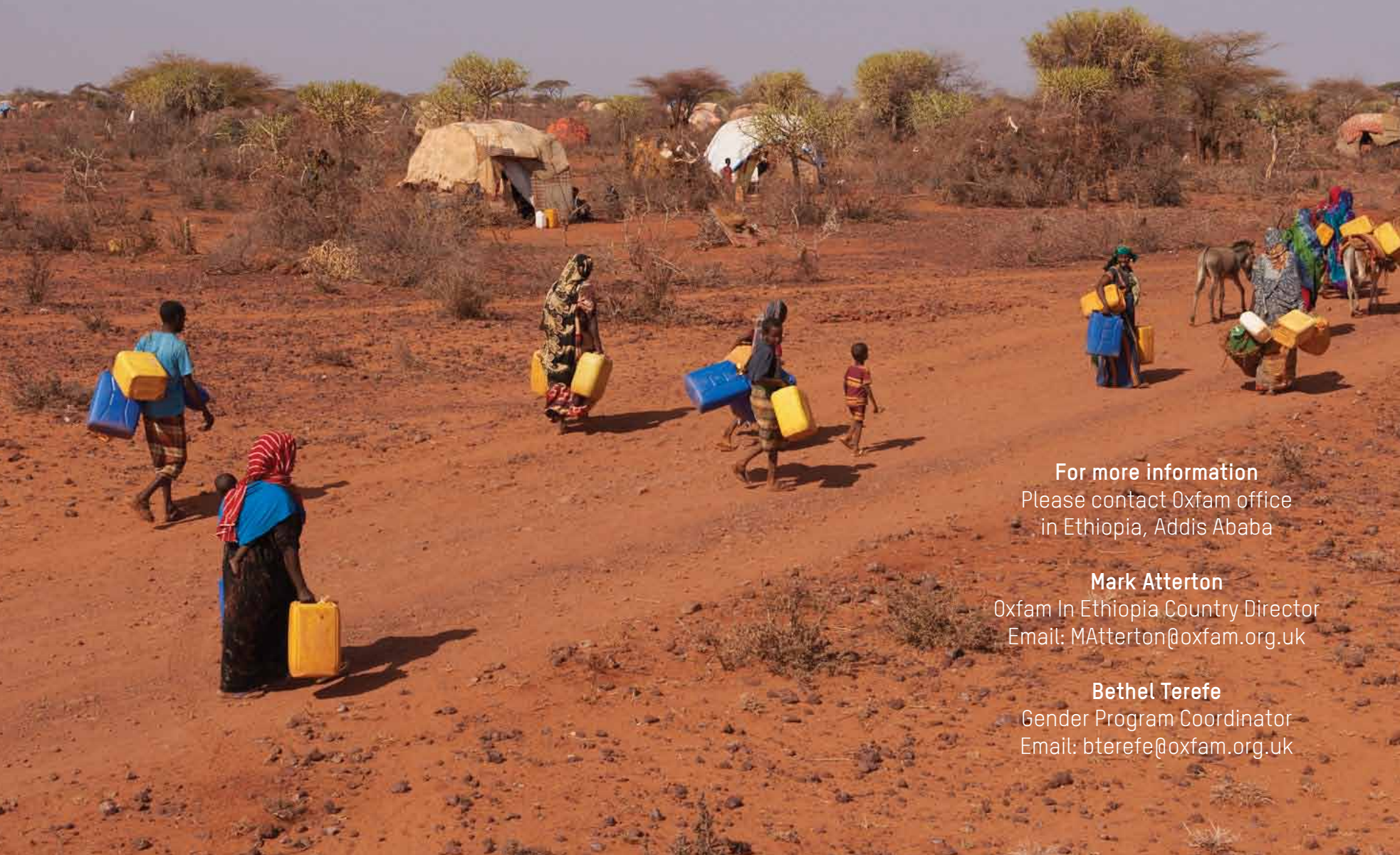


Protect beneficiaries from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by staff and partners

OXFAM MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GENDER IN EMERGENCIES



OXFAM



For more information

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