

**JOINT SUBMISSION OF Ethiopia UN COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT) FOR THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF Ethiopia, 3RD CYCLE, 33rd SESSION May**

17 October 2018

I. Background and Framework

Methodology for preparation of the report

This submission, which is a contribution to the 3rd cycle UPR review of Ethiopia, has been prepared based on inputs from UN agencies, Funds and Programmes operating in Ethiopia.¹ In line with the applicable guideline, the report focuses on capturing advancements registered in the implementation of recommendations made to Ethiopia during the 2nd review of Ethiopia in May 2014. With UNHCR participation in the development of the UNCT submission, it did make a standalone submission, which UNCT Ethiopia endorses and recognizes as an integral part of the present joint country submission.

II. National Human Rights Framework

A. Interaction with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

1. *Ratification and Reporting status:* Ethiopia is party to all the core human rights treaties except for the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)².
2. *Reporting status and national mechanism for reporting and follow up (NMRF):* Ethiopia has currently four overdue reports to the Treaty Bodies³. UNCT Ethiopia has been providing assistance to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to meet its reporting obligations including through organization of dedicated trainings for relevant stakeholders on reporting procedures and follow up of recommendations. The UNCT has been advocating for strengthening the capacity of the relevant department at the Office of the Attorney-General (OAG) to enable it to discharge its duty to coordinate reporting to human rights mechanisms and follow up of their recommendations in line with its mandate as a standing NMRF. Shortage of dedicated human resource at the relevant section of the OAG is one of the main challenges, as observed by the UNCT, for the gaps in reporting to human rights mechanisms and systematic follow up of their recommendations.

¹ Contributing entities were: UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, WHO, UNOHCHR, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN ECA, and UNODC

² Other outstanding ratifications pertain to, among others, the Optional Protocols to the ICCPR, ICESCR, and CAT. Ethiopia has ratified two of the three optional protocols to the UNCRC in 2014: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

³ ICERD, ICCPR, CAT and the CESCR

3. UNCT Ethiopia has also advocated for better consultation with CSOs in the preparation of reports to the human rights mechanisms as well as the subsequent follow up of recommendations. Further, UNCT Ethiopia is working towards developing the capacity of NGOs working in human rights to enable them to make stronger contributions to reviews by the mechanisms.
4. Cooperation with Special Procedures: There are currently about 12 pending special procedure mechanism visit requests including from those on freedom of opinion and expression and adequate housing.
5. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - The former High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, visited Ethiopia in 2017 and 2018. The first visit in April 2017 took place when a series of human rights concerns were registered following widespread protests across the country, which resulted in declaration of two emergency decrees, the first for a period of six months and the latter for four months. The second visit took place in April 2018 amidst a sense of hope and commitment by the new administration to undertake reforms. OHCHR has signed a Host Country Agreement with the Government of Ethiopia, formally establishing the Regional Office for Eastern Africa. The agreement is also expected to pave the way for stronger cooperation, including towards finalising ongoing reforms and furthering respect for the human rights of all.
6. Since the last UPR review, Ethiopia has issued legislations to further align its protection framework with relevant international standards including the National Child Policy (2017)⁴; Ethiopia National Refugee Strategy for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (2017-2019) and Social Workforce Assessment (2017).

Recommendations

- ✓ *Ethiopia should ratify the CMW in line with commitment shown in different fora including during its voluntary pledge made during its membership bid to the Human Rights Council*
- ✓ *The GOE should strengthen the key capacities of its NMRF including through deployment of dedicated human resource to the relevant department of the OAG.*
- ✓ *The GOE should accept pending requests from special procedure mandate holders and consider issuing a standing invitation*

A. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

7. The UNCT has continued to support national human rights infrastructures, such as the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Secretariat of the National Human Rights Action Plan (which is also focal point for UPR), and the Ombudsman Institute to enhance their operational capacities and enable them to deliver on their mandates. The CRC has been translated into local languages and a child friendly version prepared. It was also widely disseminated for promotion and sensitization on child rights. In addition, the EHRC is taking initiatives to periodically monitor the implementation of the CRC Concluding Observation and Recommendations (COR) (2015). Further, EHRC translated the 2015 CRC COR into three local languages.

⁴ The policy is aligned with the basic principles of the United Nations Convention of the Right of the Child and of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

8. The UNCT has technically and financially supported the Office of Attorney General in the development and roll out of the National Human Rights Action Plan II (NHRAP II). The UNCT has also advocated for the implementation of the NHRAP II, which draws heavily from recommendations from Human Rights Mechanisms, in a participatory manner as well as in synergy with the implementation of the SDGs.

Recommendation

- ✓ *The GOE should step up its efforts towards a systematic implementation of the NHRAP II in a participatory manner and in synergy with the SDG processes*

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

9. The protection of women and children has commendably been given priority by the Government of Ethiopia both at the Federal and Regional States level. The Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the sector development plan for women and children as well as Women Focus Growth and Transformation Strategy and National Gender Inclusive Guideline encourage and promote women's socio-economic empowerment; their participation in political and decision-making process and their protection against discriminatory attitudes, harmful traditional practices and violence. However, women still face different and more basic economic constraints than men due to lack of access to credit and inexperience in marketing their products resulting lower demand.
10. In collaboration with UNCT Ethiopia, the Government of Ethiopia continued to build the capacity of vulnerable adolescents including those living with HIV/AIDS through the provision of quality, HIV, violence and harmful practices (HP) information and services through different platforms (health facilities, youth centres for out-of-school children, education facilities etc.). Efforts such as the development of training manual are underway to improve the provision of services which are adolescent and youth friendly as well as sensitive to persons living with disabilities.
11. FGM/C and Child Marriage: The National Alliance to End Child Marriage, which was created in 2012, was strengthened in 2015 through a merger with the National FGM/C Network and the establishment of a secretariat. At the Girls Summit held in London in 2014, Ethiopia publicly renewed its commitment to end child marriage and FGM/C by 2025. Intensive advocacy by the UNCT has influenced the policy decision on female genital mutilation (FGM) that bans the medicalization of FGM in the health sector in January 2017.⁵ Regarding monitoring and evaluation of FGM, the 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) substantively covered the prevalence of FGM/C among women in different age groups.
12. Vital Events and Civil Registration: Ethiopia launched its conventional universal, permanent and continuous civil registration and vital statistics system in 2016 leading to an increase in birth registration. Birth and other vital events registration rates can be better accelerated if administrative bottlenecks are removed.

⁵ <http://www.afro.who.int/en/ethiopia/press-materials/item/9332-ethiopia-bans-medicalization-of-female-genital-mutilation-fgm.html>

13. Gender based violence (GBV): With the support of the UNCT, a practical handbook for health workers to translate CEDAW into public health approach of health response to GBV/sexual violence has been developed. A package of training manuals for adequate care for GBV survivors was also developed, and training of trainers were organized by the Ministry of Health to address challenges of prosecution in forensic data collection and evidence report of GBV cases. With the support of the UNCT, EHRC developed a general monitoring guideline and a standardized observance checklist/instrument to adequately monitor the implementation of the NHRAP II at national level. The EHRC also introduced a monitoring checklist in 2017 to assess the health sector performance on right-based approaches to ensure equal and equitable health care for all.
14. Female Educational Opportunities: The government of Ethiopia has made a commendable effort to enhance access to education to all including the primary school enrolment rate of girls which increased from 21 to 49 percent in the last two decades.⁶
15. Promoting the Health and Safety of Women and Girls: Principles of equity and universal access to primary health care are encompassed in the Comprehensive Health Sector Transformation Plan (2016-2020) and the National Reproductive Health Strategy (2016-2020) which feeds in to the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP 2). Though Ethiopia has made progress in reducing maternal mortality in the last fifteen years, the rate remains one of the highest in the world.⁷

Recommendations:

The GOE should:

- ✓ *Continue the efforts to support women's ability to create businesses and secure their own livelihoods and encourage financing for female-owned businesses through the Development Credit Authority*
- ✓ *strengthen laws and enforce laws banning all forms of the practice of FGM/C*
- ✓ *Enhance efforts to further apply the policy of banning the medicalization of FGM beyond health sector*
- ✓ *continue the efforts to improve quality of reproductive and maternal health services, focusing on bridging the regional disparities in access and utilization of reproductive health services and strengthening family planning initiatives*
- ✓ *Enhance the national system of vital statistics registration*
- ✓ *Intensify and build the institutional capacity for comprehensive health response to gender-based violence (including harmful traditional practices) and evidence collections for forensic analysis that supports legal processes in all the public and private health care facilities*
- ✓ *Provide all the necessary support to the EHRC in its effort to monitor health sectors using the the human rights lens*
- ✓ *Continue to effectively apply fee waiver for key health interventions particularly for emergencies, women and child health*
- ✓ *Intensify efforts to make secondary and tertiary school accessible for girls and to address their personal security and economic challenges*
- ✓ *Strengthen efforts at regional level to strategically address gender disparities in literacy and educational attainment*

⁶ USAID 2018

⁷ 412 per 100,000 live births, according to 2016 EDHS.

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

16. Despite protection of the right to life, liberty and security of the person as well as prohibition of torture, inhumane and degrading treatment under the FDRE Constitution and the Criminal Code, several actors have expressed grave concerns on the violation of these rights. For instance, former detainees, released recently on pardon, have alleged experiencing such treatments during their incarceration at the Federal Crime Investigation Center (Maekelawi) located in Addis Ababa.⁸
17. Although the Ethiopian Criminal Code has several provisions including Article 424 on “Use of Improper Methods” that includes prohibition on the use of torture in some ways, so far no measure has been taken to comprehensively define torture in line with the UN CAT.
18. While the UNCT welcomes the recent decision of the government to take a series of reform measures towards improved human rights protection, it remains concerned that as of yet no concrete measures have been taken to thoroughly investigate and hold accountable those responsible, provide for effective remedies to victims and to prevent the non-occurrence of torture, inhumane and degrading treatments in all detention facilities.
19. The UNCT remains concerned of reports including by the EHRC that hundreds of individuals were killed and sustained physical injuries by law enforcement and security forces, during the nationwide protests and demonstrations that took place from 2015 to 2017 and lately in 2018.
20. While the UNCT welcomes the recently announced commitment to hold accountable law enforcement and security forces who have used excessive lethal force as per the EHRC’s recommendations and its plan to enact a law on use of force, it remains concerned that as of yet no concrete measures have been taken to this end.
21. While the UNCT welcomes the GoE’s high level engagement with the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights during his visits to Ethiopia in 2017 and 2018, the UNCT notes with concern that the GoE has not yet positively responded to his repeated requests for access to investigate the alleged human rights violations, including killings and physical injuries and to provide the necessary technical support.
22. While the UNCT encourages ongoing efforts to bring peace, stability and security, it is seriously concerned of the recent reported loss of lives, physical attacks and displacement of more than a million people in the context ethnic-oriented conflicts that erupted in Gedio and West Guji Zones of the SNNPR State, the Oromia Regional State as well as in the Somali Regional State.⁹
23. While the UNCT notes the renewed commitment to hold accountable those responsible, it remains concerned that at least fifty-five individuals lost their lives, several sustained physical injuries and an estimated fifteen thousand were displaced as a result of unrest that broke out

⁸ These concerns and allegations seem to have been confirmed by the explicit statement of the newly appointed Prime Minister during his acceptance speech in April 2018 in which he stated torture has been practiced in various investigation centers, prisons and police stations in the country over the years.

⁹ Numerous official accounts by government as well as UNCT visits to the areas attest to the magnitude of the challenges

in Burayu town and Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 September 2018¹⁰ and the killing of at least five by law enforcement officials on 17 September 2018 during a demonstration held in Addis Ababa¹¹

24. While the UNCT welcomes measures to hold accountable those responsible, including senior officials, for the alleged killing of at least twenty civilians, physical injury of hundreds, rape, displacements in thousands, looting and property destructions and other human rights abuses and violations that occurred in the Somali regional state for many years including during the ethnic-oriented mob attack that took place from 04 to 06 August 2018¹², it remains concerned that as of yet there is no mechanism put in place to address victims' right to have access to effective remedies, including adequate reparation and psycho-social support.
25. The UNCT remains concerned of mass arrests by law enforcement organs in different parts of the country which appear to disregard due process guarantees. Among many other instances, while some out of 3000 youths the police arrested on 22 September were later on formally charged, 1200 remain in detention at the Tolay Military Camp for a "rehabilitation education".¹³
26. The UNCT commends the establishment of human rights violation complaints handling offices in the premises of police stations and other institutions tasked with undertaking investigation. The UNCT also commends the decision of the government to ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its supplementing Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Trafficking in Persons Protocol) and against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (Smuggling of Migrants Protocol) as well as for adopting Proclamation 909/2015, which is currently under review. The UNCT remains concerned of internal and transnational trafficking in women and children. The UNCT provided support to the GoE in operationalizing One Stop Centres¹⁴ for the provision of integrated legal, medical and psychosocial services to survivors of sexual violence, particularly for women and children from 2012 to 2018.

Recommendations

- ✓ *Take concrete measures to stop violations against the right to life and protection against torture, and ensure that all allegations of such violations and abuses are effectively investigated*
- ✓ *Take concrete measures to eradicate all forms of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials*
- ✓ *Positively respond to the request of made by the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights seeking access to investigate the human rights violations that took place between 2015 and 2017 and recently in 2018*
- ✓ *Revise the definition of torture in the criminal code in line with the UN CAT.*

¹⁰ Figures are conservative, based only on those provided by the Addis Ababa City Administration, Addis Ababa Police commission, the Federal Police Commission and the Federal Office of Communication Affairs from 16-25 September 2018.

¹¹ According to a press Statement released by Addis Ababa Police commission on 24 September 2018.

¹² Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation, Proclamation 909/2015

¹³ According to a statement by the Addis Ababa City Administration Police Commissioner during a press conference held on 24 September 2018.

¹⁴ 5 in Addis Ababa, 1 in Somali, 1 Tigray, 1 Afar, 1 in Gambella, 1 in Benishangul Gumuz, 3 in Oromia, 2 in Amhara, 2 in SNNPR, 1 in Harar, 1 in Dire Dawa

- ✓ *Ratify and take concrete measures to implement the optional Protocol to the UN CAT*
- ✓ *Continue working with the OHCHR, including on putting in place effective protection mechanisms to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights to life, liberty and security of the person.*
- ✓ *Put an end to ongoing practices of mass arrests that do not comply with the State's obligations to uphold rule of law and due process guarantees.*
- ✓ *Ensure the revised legal framework to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons in line with the international law;*
- ✓ *Establish specialized units to counter transnational organised crime, including Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, including specific expertise and capacity to engage with children and women*

C. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

27. The UNCT continues to support the EHRC towards its efforts to discharge its mandate in line with the Paris Principles. The EHRC, with the assistance of the UNCT, provided capacity-building trainings to its staff; set up additional legal aid centers¹⁵, provided a training of trainers to 226 security and law enforcement officials on mainstreaming human rights in the administration of justice. However, the UNCT is concerned that the capacity of the EHRC to monitor alleged human rights abuses and violations is still in need of a lot of improvements.
28. The UNCT provided technical support to the criminal justice system organs to develop effective and responsible crime prevention strategies /policies and to build the capacity to uphold the rule of law and protection of human rights, with a particular focus on the rights of vulnerable groups.
- In relation to the judiciary, the UNCT provided technical support to strengthen judicial integrity and capacity, using the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct as guidance, and dissemination copies of the code of conduct to judges, the disciplinary code and the ethics code. The GoE's, with the support of the UNCT, has taken also commendable steps in enhancing the right of access to justice and fair trial for children and expanding the coverage and standard for child friendly justice proceedings.¹⁶ The UNCT commends the development and ongoing implementation of Children's Justice Project.¹⁷
29. The UNCT remains concerned that persons deprived of their liberty, particularly women, are among those most often left behind in criminal justice systems, who often experience excessive use of force; face lengthy pre-trial detentions; are kept in overcrowded cells; are not provided with gender-specific, adequate rehabilitation and social reintegration services. Other sources of concern include the fact of the national criminal age standing at 15 putting offenders above this age to be subject to the ordinary penalties applicable to adults; the absence of a comprehensive and/or consolidated juvenile justice legal framework in compliance with international law and standards.

¹⁵ Thus far, 868 individuals benefitted out of whom 65% are women.

¹⁶ Woredas having child friendly benches/courts and child protection units within Police stations have increased from 54 by mid-2016 to 124 currently.

¹⁷ The Project comprises of the following components: establishment of child-friendly courts; construction of alternative correctional facility in juvenile detention centers; provision of legal, health and social support services for juveniles in conflict with the law, advocacy of rights in different languages in police stations and the development of a Directive on rights of accused persons at federal and regional police stations.

Recommendations

- ✓ *Extend all the necessary support to the EHRC with a view to making it fully compliant with the Paris Principles on National Human Rights Institutions.*
- ✓ *Develop clear definition and implementation guidelines for diversion of children in conflict with the law;*
- ✓ *Develop national crime prevention and legal aid strategies*
- ✓ *Conduct a comprehensive and multidimensional needs assessment and develop a concrete reform strategy that effectively promote access to justice in both formal or informal institutions of justice in conformity with human rights standards*
- ✓ *Develop a comprehensive data management system for the criminal justice system and improve accessibility and availability of information*
- ✓ *Strengthen efforts to develop and adopt a curriculum on human rights for the criminal justice sector institutions, especially for prison and rehabilitation centers, in line with human rights and international instruments.*
- ✓ *redouble efforts to prevent violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice*
- ✓ *Adopt an all-encompassing Juvenile Justice legal framework that meets international standards*
- ✓ *Undertake a needs assessment/other relevant study of the status of ethics and integrity within the Judiciary;*
- ✓ *Invest in overall capacity building of law enforcement officials and in the establishment and equipping, as necessary, of specialized units (e.g. transnational crime, human trafficking, investigations, forensics)*
- ✓ *Increase knowledge and capacity of criminal justice practitioners to use forensic evidences compliant to human rights standards*

- ✓ *Ensure monitoring and reporting of human rights violations are in line with international standards*
- ✓ *Enhance capacity to effect international cooperation in criminal matters through informal and formal cooperation and mutual legal assistance*

D. Right to marriage and family life

30. The UNCT commends the commitment of the GoE for increased attention to child protection, including by recognizing the need to reduce violence against women and children as multi-sectoral priority in the GTP II. Notwithstanding these efforts, the UNCT remains concerned that despite the prevalence of sexual violence in marital context, the GoE has not yet criminalized marital rape.¹⁸
31. Similarly, the UNCT remains concerned that despite constitutional guarantees girls and women in the context of marriage and criminalization of early and forced marriage, the practices of child marriage are still rampant.

Recommendation

¹⁸ The recent EDHS (2016) shows that 10% of married women have experienced one or more acts of spousal sexual violence.

- ✓ *Intensify efforts for the effective implementation of laws that protect women from early and forced marriage, including by mobilizing the community and other stakeholders at the grassroots and higher levels*

E. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

32. The two rounds of declaration of a state of emergency in 2016/2017 and in 2018 for a total of thirteen months have significantly restricted the enjoyment of the rights to freedom expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public affairs.
33. The UNCT is presently providing technical assistance to the independent and impartial Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council set up by the GoE to review laws including the Charities and Civil Societies law¹⁹ and the Anti-Terrorism law²⁰ as per the recommendations made under the UPR, Treaty Body Mechanisms and Special Procedures mandate holders.
34. Although the government has expressed commitment to revise the law on Charities and Civil Societies, the UNCT remains concerned that the law- still operational, has tremendously impacted on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association, including on access to financial resources particularly those working on human rights promotion and advocacy.
35. The UNCT provided technical support to organize a follow up workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations in 2015, including a discussion on the role of CSOs in the dissemination and follow up on the implementation. CSOs engaged with state authorities and advocated for the incorporation and recognition of the role of CSOs in the NHRAP-II
36. The UNCT is also providing technical and financial support to the Prime Minister's Office in support of the efforts around the amendment of the Charities and Civil Societies Law and on the development of National Civic Engagement Strategy.

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

37. The employment to population ratio was 43% for females compared to 64% for males by 2016 and the proportion of females in the informal sector was higher than males due to a variety of factors.²¹ Major reasons for women's high representation among the economically inactive include: being a homemaker, pregnancy, old age and illness.²²

G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

38. Social Protection: Ethiopia scored rapid economic development with significant expansion of public financing for social investment and emergencies response largely from domestic

¹⁹ Charities and Societies Proclamation, Proclamation No. 621/2009

²⁰ Anti-Terrorism Proclamation No.652/2009

²¹ Gender Statistics 2017, CSA and UN Women: factors such as lack of education and women's greater commitment to family responsibilities. Although data on equal pay for equal work is not available, data on mean amount of monthly payment shows consistently lower pay for women compared to men

²² Gender Statistics 2017, CSA and UN Women

resources. The budget formulation is increasingly pro-poor and aligned with the SDGs agenda. The GoE commendably adopted a National social protection policy and National Social Protection Strategy in 2016 with the aim of providing protection to vulnerable households.

Recommendation

- ✓ *Stepping up existing efforts to establish/strengthen a comprehensive and integrated social protection system to address multiple effects of multidimensional poverty and deprivation of Ethiopian citizens.*

39. Water and Sanitation: The GoE has increased coverage for improved drinking water sources²³ although safely managed water supply and sanitation is still very low.²⁴ The One WASH National Program (OWNP) is the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) main instrument for achieving the goals set out in the GTP II.

Recommendation

- ✓ *The GoE needs to accelerate its efforts to increase equitable access to safe and adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services in rural and urban areas, paying special attention to women and children in vulnerable circumstances*

H. Right to health

40. Though Ethiopia has improved the overall health outcomes for mothers and children, maternal and child mortality rates still remains high. Moreover, the current health extension programme needs adjustment to respond to the evolving population's needs, diversified skills sets and technology, operational challenges, contextualised strategy for pastoralist and urban settings.
41. Though the health extension programme has played a critical role in the progresses made on primary health care coverage, it has to be adjusted to respond to the evolving population's needs- more diversified skills sets and technology, operational challenges and bottlenecks, contextualised strategy for pastoralist and urban settings.
42. In recent years, Community insurance system is also being introduced in pilot projects to combat the financial hardship of immediate out of pocket expenses for health. Shortage & unavailability of some essential medicines at the primary health care facilities challenge the legalized fee waiver application.

Recommendations:

- ✓ *Continue to effectively apply the fee exemption system for key health interventions for emergency health situation, women and child health care. Reinforce the reform of health care financing to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure in the poor*
- ✓ *Continue supporting the quality service monitoring in all health facilities including ensuring the right based approaches*

²³ EDHS 2016, out of the total population increment from 59% in 2015 to 67% in 2016.

²⁴ According to 2017 Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report for WASH SDG Monitoring, it remains only 11%.

I. Right to education

43. A high proportion of children in Ethiopia do not complete primary education. Furthermore, few children are meeting minimum proficiency learning levels. Educational disparities are also high in Ethiopia where drop-out and low attendance rates are considerably higher in regions with larger pastoralist and rural-agriculturalist communities. The fifth Education Sector Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20) prioritizes investments across quality, access, and management, as a means of achieving the human capital development targets within GTP II.²⁵
44. Gender inequality in literacy is observed in all age groups and all regions across the country.²⁶ However, challenges at secondary level particularly in second cycle such as distance to secondary schools, socio-cultural barriers for girls' education like labour and time- intensive domestic chores, harmful traditional practices like early marriage and trafficking of girls remain at large.²⁷
45. Although the progress in access to education is encouraging, the number of out of school children, both male and female is quite significant with differences along the rural-urban divide and regional variations.²⁸
46. Despite increase in the number and reach of educational institutions at all levels, quality of education is a major challenge identified in policy documents.

J. Persons with disabilities

47. The GoE has taken key measures to address the needs of peoples with disability at national level. GTP II has various chapters and articles which refer directly or indirectly to persons with disabilities. In the last three years, there have been efforts towards improving access to services to persons with disabilities.
48. The UNCT implemented the United Nations partnership to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD1) Project, which contributed to strengthening CRPD National Implementation and Monitoring Coordinating Committees (NIMCCs) in Ethiopia. Federal Ministries and Regional Bureaus were provided capacity building including convenient access to work places for persons with disabilities, awareness raising of staff members; and provision of sign language services.
49. The implementation of the UNPRPD project resulted in the establishment of the Ethiopian Business and Disability Network, a member of the Global Business and Disability Network.

²⁵ The plan focuses on capacity development for improved management, general education quality, general education access, equity and internal efficiency. The Ministry of Education drafted a "Learning Generation Road-Map (2018-2030)" to accelerate children and young people's attainment of critical knowledge, skills and competencies required for the country's future development and economic growth.

²⁶ Higher levels of illiteracy among women at 67% compared to 40% among men; while in rural areas, illiteracy rate for women goes up to 73%. Further, significant regional disparities abound - Somalia and Afar regions are with high proportion of females with no education (over 60%). The literacy rate goes down for females age 30 and above across the regions while it is higher for the 10 to 19 age groups attesting to the contribution of expansion of education particularly at primary level.

²⁷ Girls' Education and Gender Equality Strategy, 2014, Ministry of Education.

²⁸ 30% of boys and girls aged 7-18 years are not in school, 33% of rural children out of school compared to 17% in urban areas. Similarly, variations in primary level attendance by females with Somalia (56%) and Afar (62%) representing the lowest compared to Addis Ababa (85%) and Gambella (87%) falling among the highest.

The Project contributed to mainstreaming the rights of disabled persons in trade union activities of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU).

Recommendations:

- ✓ *Enhance efforts to improve the livelihoods and social protection of peoples with disability*
- ✓ *Intensify efforts to make health care facilities accessible to people with disabilities and reinforce early detection and management of disabilities and impairments among children*

K. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers²⁹

50. Ethiopia is part of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLPM) in Africa, a partnership comprising the African Union Commission and relevant UN Agencies with the objective of addressing the challenges of labour migration and mobility on the continent by enhancing the capacity of Member States and RECs to achieve harmonized free movement regimes.

L. Right to development and environmental issues

51. Through its development interventions, such as climate resilience and forestry projects, the Ethiopian government with the support of the UNCT is making considerable progress towards environmentally friendly sustainable development. The UNCT is also supporting efforts to promote job creation especially for women and youth through a dedicated project as well as multi-dimensional research on resilience building and environmental issues.

M. Human rights and counter-terrorism

52. The UNCT remains concerned that the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation 652/2009 as is and its application in practice until recently remains incompatible with international human rights standards, particularly the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) and regional standards such as the AU Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while countering terrorism in Africa.
53. The Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs, through the support of the UNCT, facilitated several conferences aimed at resolving conflicts in various part of the country. In the context of conflict prevention, UNCT supported the preparation of a draft legislation to prevent illegal transfer of arms and regulate registration of firearms.

End of the report.

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²⁹ Kindly refer to the UNHCR standalone submission for a more comprehensive reflection of the work of the UNCT in the area.