

**CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN
ETHIOPIA**

**SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE THIRD CYCLE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF ETHIOPIA**

Submission by

Network of Ethiopian Women's Association

Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association

Human Rights Council

Sara-Justice From All Women Association

1. Introduction

1.1 Taking in to account the due attention given by the UPR mechanism to following progress from previous review and noting the important role CSOs in the UPR process seriously, the contributing CSOs have engaged in tracking the implementation of UPR2 recommendations for Ethiopia.

1.2 In this submission the authors have attempted to examine the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) performance in implementing UPRs recommendations relevant to gender based violence. The report is an outcome of a systematic follow- up employed through a tracking tool specifically designed for UPR monitoring. Information was collected through document reviews, primary data from key informants, and a stakeholder consultation.

2. Combating Gender Based Violence (GBV)

2.1 In the previous UPR cycle the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) had accepted recommendations to continue efforts to combat violence against women. This section aims to assess the progress and challenges in this regard.

Progress and achievements

2.2 It is generally noted that the GoE has taken some important policy and strategic measures aimed at eliminating GBV.

2.3 Both the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) ⁱ and second National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP II) implemented in the reporting period, outline addressing violence against women as one of the priorities and provide for measures to be taken to eliminate GBV and HTPs. The GTP II sets targets to reduce child physical injury, and child sexual abuse by 70% and reduce the practices of child marriage and FGM to 0.5 percent by 2020.

2.4 The Women's Development and Change Strategy introduced in 2017 also identifies elimination of violence against women as a strategic priority, focusing on the implementation of programs protecting women from violence and providing necessary services to victims (i.e. comprehensive, quality and accessible legal protection, free legal aid service, and one stop and rehabilitation centers for victims of gender based violence).

2.5 Information from the Federal Attorney General's (FAG) office confirms that the National Coordinating Body on a Coordinated and Comprehensive Prevention and Response to Violence against Women and Children, and on Child Justice (NCB), in accordance with its strategic plan for 2011-2016, has been monitoring and evaluating, supporting, and coordinating the activities of NCB member government institutions. It was reported that it, in particular, assisted justice sector institutions of regional states to set up referral systems for cases of violence against women and children (created in 5 regional states).

2.6 For the first time in the country's history, a module on violence against women was introduced in the National Demographic Health Survey (DHS) and a key indicators report was issued in 2016 carrying national data on violence against women.ⁱⁱ The inclusion of the module is very important since poor data collection and under-reporting of violence against women and girls in Ethiopia had been a challenge for a very long time.ⁱⁱⁱ

2.7 The National Human Rights Action Plan Coordination Office has finalized drafting a National Legal Aid Strategy which aims to bring together and harmonize the current fragmented legal aid provision in the country which will have significant impact in ensuring access to justice for victims of GBV.

Gaps and challenges

2.8 Despite the noted progress in terms of policy, strategy and institutional arrangements, it is not certain that the plans were fully implemented as envisaged. There is no clear follow-up report and documentation.

2.9 Further, in relation to the NBC, there is no credible data to show if the strategic plan has been operationalized. FAG has identified factors that have hampered the activities of the coordinating body which include, limited support for the coordinating body's work from heads of member institutions, high turnover rate of heads and other high level officials of member institutions resulting in limited institutional knowledge about the coordinating body, irregular meetings, lack of focus on strategic issues, and absence of accountability mechanisms. A full assessment of the implementation of the plans is yet to be done.

2.10. The rate of GBV still remains to be high in the country. Data shows that 28% of ever married women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence and 20% have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months. No official statistic is available for lifetime non-partner sexual violence.

Recommendations

2.11 The GoE shall:

- Fully implement the measures identified in the Women's Strategy and NHARPII
- Assess and strengthen the implementation of the strategic plan of NCB;
- Make available a national data on non-partner sexual violence;
- Operationalize the implementation of the national legal aid strategy;

3. Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)

3.1 It is to be recalled that GoE had accepted a couple of UPR2 recommendations concerning HTPs. These included: to continue efforts to address FGM and early marriage; to further pursue the national strategy and the action plan on the elimination of (HTPs) and FGM; and to step up efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the ban on FGM through preventive measures

Progress

3.2 According to EDHS 2016, 65% of Ethiopian women aged 15-49 are victims of FGM. Somali and Afar regional states have the highest FGM rates with 99% of women age 15-49 having been circumcised. The FGM prevalence has decreased from 74% in 2005 with a notable decline among younger women (aged 15-19) which currently stands at 47% showing a 24% decline between 2005 and 2016. Of girls who are currently age 14, 38% have been circumcised.

3.3 The 2013 National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children has been accompanied by a Social Norm Change Communication Strategy. A National Alliance to End Child Marriage and FGM headed by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and composed of various sectoral ministers, national associations, and faith based organizations has been established to coordinate the implementation of the National Strategy. For this purpose, the Alliance stakeholder road maps and community mobilization action plans. In addition, similar alliances have also been established in regional states.

3.4 In January 2017, the Ministry of Health issued a circular banning medicalization of FGM in all public and private medical facilities and stating that any form of FGM in medical facilities will be subjected to legal actions.

3.5 According to government reports, between 2016 and 2018, tens of millions of people were reached through awareness creation and mobilization campaigns on gender based violence, HTPs and trafficking in women and children, closely working with religious and tribal leaders, community elders and women's and other grassroots associations in its efforts to influence community attitudes and actions against HTPs. Reports from the MoWCA and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) demonstrate their active engagement in organizing targeted consultative forums, capacity building trainings and awareness events.

3.6 It is, however, difficult to assess the impact such measures have made. According to figures from MoWCA, as a result of the awareness creation and community mobilization campaigns, incidences of child marriage and FGM have been reduced to 16% and 6%, respectively at the national level.

Gaps and challenges

3.7 There is still a underreporting of FGM and HTPs cases in general, and investigation and prosecution rate is low. EDHS 2016 report indicates that the decline may in part be a result of under reporting following the criminalization of the practice in 2005. Women in rural areas are more likely to be circumcised than their urban counter parts (68% and 54% respectively). However, the reporting does not go hand in hand with this estimate of vulnerability.

Recommendations

3.8 The GoE should:

- Expand current awareness creation efforts to reach all parts of rural Ethiopia;
- Strengthen existing mechanisms to fight harmful traditional practices;
- Strengthen justice sector responsiveness to HTPs;
- Devote particular attention and targeted measures to high risk areas.

4. Enhancing Victim Services

4.1 GoE had accepted recommendations to enhance assistance, shelter and rehabilitation for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Progress

4.2 According to the annual reports of MoWCA, between 2015/16 and 2017/18, 11 one stop service centers have been established in three regional states and the two federal cities (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa). 12 rehabilitation centers have also been established for victims of gender based violence and harmful traditional practices. These figures, taken at face value, would mean that the Government has already met the targets set in its five year strategic plan under GTPII two years ahead of time.

4.3 The above figures, however, are contradicted by information gathered from other sources. For example, in the MoWCA annual reports, there are currently 5 one stop centers in Addis Abeba while information obtained from the FAG, shows that until recently the capital, Addis Ababa, only had a single one stop center and a new one just became operational in 2018 through the NCB's arrangement with the Addis Ababa Health Bureau which targets to add three more centers in major hospitals of the Capital.

4.4 Additionally, a 2016 first of its kind national survey by UN Women found that there were 12 shelters providing rehabilitation and reintegration services in Ethiopia: Addis Ababa (5), Benishangul Gumuz (2), Oromia (2), Dire Dawa (1), SNNP (1) and Amhara (1) regions. Only one of these was funded and managed by the government.

4.5 The Government also reported an increase in the number of cities across the country with three-digit hotlines to report cases of violence against children.^{iv}

Gaps and challenges

4.6 Except one of these shelters, all are located in the capitals of the regional states making them inaccessible to the vast majority of rural women. Accessibility was further constrained due to eligibility criteria excluding women with disabilities, mental health problems and on the basis of pregnancy. In terms of availability of comprehensive services, only some of the shelters provided healthcare services, economic empowerment initiatives, counseling and therapeutic activities, and referral to legal aid services.

4.7 Given the prevalence of GBV and the demand for such services, the number of centers and shelters reported are still very low and under staffed and under equipped. Furthermore, NGOs providing shelter and rehabilitation services face a number of difficulties and they receive inadequate assistance from the government.^v The government needs to facilitate support for these shelters either funding or in kind support, such as land, rent free or low rent houses for setting up shelters, and other logistical support.

Recommendations

4.8 The GoE should :

- Expand assistance, shelter and rehabilitation services to victims of GBV by increasing one-stop and rehabilitation centers and strengthening the capacity of existing ones;
- Provide or facilitate financial or in kind support to NGOs providing victim services;
- Enhance GBV reporting mechanisms including hotline services throughout the country:

5. Enforcement of the Criminal Law

5.1 Accepted Recommendations by GoE on this issue mainly focus on increasing efforts to effectively enforce the provisions of the Criminal Code on sexual and domestic violence and prosecute any such acts.

Progress

5.2 The Revised Criminal Code (2005) criminalizes and sets sanctions against violence against women including, rape, and harmful traditional practices such as abduction, child marriage, and FGM. GoE has since been taking measures to enforce the provisions of the criminal code against GBV.

5.3 Under the Revised Sentencing Guidelines (2012), judges are required to increase the lower end of the penalty in sentencing gender based and sexual violence crimes criminalized under the criminal code. Though a positive aspect, data showing sentencing trends in relation to this are hardly available to assess progress during the period under review.

5.4 Special investigation and prosecution units established to handle cases of violent crimes against women and children continued to operate both at the federal and regional levels.^{vi}

Gaps and challenges

5.5 Reliable data at the national level on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in GBV cases are not available. The Government does not maintain a national data base for GBV crimes. Nonetheless, the GoE recently reported to the CEDAW Committee, that, between 2014/15 and 2017, 976 cases of crimes against women and children were prosecuted at

the federal level, with 552 convictions, and 170 acquittals. The FAG indicated that it is working towards developing and implementing a National Integrated Justice Information System that will compile data on, among other things, case management of different crimes. The project is set to be completed by 2020.^{vii}

5.6. Researches show that the number of prosecutions and convictions are still low. Reasons for this include low level of reporting^{viii} and high number of acquittals due to lack of evidence and non-trial of the accused for various reasons.^{ix}

5.7 Even though a comprehensive assessment of the special investigative units for crimes against women and children is yet to be conducted, there is evidence showing that many of the units are not fully staffed with the required personnel, especially social workers to provide psycho-social support to victims.^x In those cases where social workers are available, their placement is donor dependent (e.g. UNICEF and others), hence, remains outside the regular structure of the police or justice bureau.^{xi}

5.8 Apart from problems of prosecution and conviction of crimes of violence against women and children, there are also substantive legal and policy issues that have hampered efforts to criminalize all forms of violence against women and children:

- The criminal code, for example, does not criminalize marital rape, while ironically stating that a woman who compels a man to sexual intercourse, irrespective of any marital relationship with him, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment of up to 5 years (Articles 620 & 621).
- It also fails to provide a comprehensive definition of domestic violence which it refers to as “Violence against Marriage Partner or Person Cohabiting in an Irregular Union” under Article 564.
- The punishment for causing physical or mental health injury to a partner through violence is the same as those imposed for crimes against person and health under Articles 564 and 555.
- Efforts to combat violence against women are further undermined by the absence of procedural protections such as restraining orders.
- Furthermore, there are no comprehensive, stand-alone laws dealing with violence against women and sexual harassment at workplace.

Recommendations

5.9 The GoE should :

- Strengthen and expand special investigation and prosecution units by taking targeted measures : providing the staff with specialized training on a regular basis, increasing the number of social workers, and integrating social workers into the regular structure of the justice sector, allocation of adequate budgets ,etc.;

- Take measures to increase the level of reporting, such as enhancing community awareness on legal process and improving hotline services;
- Adopt measures to improve case management of GBV cases such as setting up special benches or incorporating accelerated procedures;
- Improve evidence gathering techniques to decrease the number of acquittals due to lack of evidence;
- Set up a national data base on gender based violence;
- Revise provisions of the criminal code to criminalize marital rape, to incorporate procedural protections for victims of violence such as restraining orders, and ;
- Enact a standalone domestic violence law, and a law that regulates workplace sexual harassment

6. Trafficking in women and girls

6.1 Strengthening Existing Mechanisms

6.1.1 In the previous UPR the GoE accepted recommendations to strengthen existing mechanisms in the fight against trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children. This section will attempt to assess the progresses and challenges in this regard.

Progress

6.1.2 The major policy initiatives undertaken by the GoE directly related and having a bearing on trafficking in women and children since 2014 are GTPII (2015-2019/20), NHRAPII (2015/6-2019/20), National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2015/6-2020) and the Five Year Strategic Plan (2014/15-2019/20). Under GTP II, combating human trafficking is identified as one of the strategic pillars under the labor affairs sub-sector's development plan.^{xii} NHRAPII identifies a number of strategies to be undertaken including, strengthening the national council to prevent human trafficking, conducting public forums of public awareness in areas especially affected by trafficking, and strengthening actions to bring perpetrators to justice.

6.1.3 In 2015, the government enacted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, *A Proclamation to Provide for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Person and Smuggling of Migrants (Proclamation No. 909/2015)*, replacing prior laws dealing with trafficking and smuggling of migrants. All forms of trafficking are criminalized under the Proclamation. It imposes stringent penalties of 15 to 25 years imprisonment and fines of 150,000 to 300,000 Ethiopian birr. The punishment for aggravated trafficking offences including trafficking of children, women, or any one impaired; resulting in physical or psychological harm; committed using drugs, medicine or weapons as a means; committed by public official or civil servant; or by a person having power over the victim goes from 25 years to life imprisonment with fine of 200,000 to 500,000 Ethiopian birr. The new proclamation also introduced a compensation scheme to be collected from perpetrators.

6.1.4 The coming into force of the new *Overseas Employment Proclamation* (Proclamation No. 923/2016) is another important development during the reporting period. The law requires a bilateral labor agreement for labor exchange to occur, sets the minimum age of labor migrants, calls for the appointment of labor *attachés* in Ethiopian embassies abroad and defines their functions, provides for the establishment of an independent public employment agency to identify and train migrant workers, and imposes more responsibilities and accountability on private employment agencies with greater government oversight of their activities. The Proclamation stipulates strict requirements for licensing and advertising by private agencies for overseas employment and provides penalties for violation of the stipulations.^{xiii}

6.1.5 Agreements with Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, two major destinations for Ethiopian migrants (especially women seeking to be hired in domestic work) were signed in May 2017 and August 2018, respectively. Subsequently, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs signed an agreement with its Saudi Arabian counterpart on a unified contract for domestic workers.^{xiv} Ethiopia had also bilateral agreements in place with Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan. The bilateral agreements are vital in protecting Ethiopian workers, especially women domestic workers, as they require the signatories to commit to ethical recruitment, provide legal remedies in cases of violations of the agreement and protect Ethiopian domestic workers by providing for equal pay for equal work, reasonable working hours, and leave time.

Gaps and challenges

6.1.6 Ethiopia still lacks a comprehensive policy on trafficking in women and children. Such a policy is necessary given the fact that trafficking in women and children is a complex problem touching upon a wide ranging and crosscutting socio-economic issues related to gender, education, employment, migration, health, culture, and the protection of human rights in general. Countries such as Thailand, Sri Lanka and Philippines, where trafficking in women and children is a serious problem have adopted such policies. Given the scale of the problem, the Ethiopian government should put in place a comprehensive national policy on trafficking in women and children.

6.1.7 Notwithstanding the criminalization of and strong punishment imposed upon acts of trafficking, the Anti-trafficking Proclamation, failed to criminalize consumers who knowingly buy the services of trafficked persons and, hence, ignored the demand that fosters trafficking in persons.

6.1.8 Domestic trafficking, especially of young women and children from rural to urban areas unusually for the purposes of forcing women and children to participate in domestic work, traditional weaving industry and prostitution, is a prevalent problem in Ethiopia. It is very difficult to find exact figures for the level of domestic trafficking in the country. IOM, for example, estimates that 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia.^{xv} Most are trafficked internally. Traffickers include local recruiting agents who mostly are relatives, friends and acquaintances of victims, long range vehicle drivers and illegal employers such as bar and restaurant owners. Trafficked women and children are often victims of labor exploitation, physical

and emotional abuse, and sexual abuse and exploitation. Despite the persistence of the problem, most of the Government's efforts to combat trafficking have focused on external trafficking while giving insufficient attention to internal trafficking, including child sex trafficking.

Recommendations

6.1.9 The GoE should :

- Adopt a comprehensive national policy on trafficking in women and children,
- Amend the trafficking proclamation to criminalize consumers who buy the services of traffickers, and
- Take measures to fully implement the Employment Exchange Services Proclamation,

6.2 Efforts to Prosecute Traffickers

6.2.1 Accepted Recommendations include step up efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including training for officials and criminal prosecution of perpetrators; and develop a specific program to try and punish traffickers of women and children.

Progress

6.2.2 The government has enhanced its efforts to prosecute traffickers. Government reports show that in the 2016/17 fiscal year, 661 trafficking and related cases, including a few pending cases from the previous year, were entertained by federal and regional courts which passed convictions on 334 cases. Another 185 cases were still being litigated. In the first 6 months of the current (2017/18) fiscal year, 182, mostly new, cases are being prosecuted before federal and regional courts, 88 of which have been concluded with convictions against the defendants. An additional 82 are still being litigated while additional 51 suspected traffickers and smugglers are under police custody and investigations are under way. Closer assessment of the cases, however, point out that some of the cases especially in the earlier years involved smuggling and other crimes often conflated with trafficking.

6.2.3 FAG has established a special unit for investigating crimes of human trafficking. To enhance the capacity of the justice sector in relation to the crime of trafficking, both federal and regional governments provide trainings to their justice sector personnel.^{xvi} They also partner with international organizations such as International Organization for Migration (IOM) and civil society stakeholders to fund and conduct such trainings.

Gaps and challenges

6.2.4 Despite such efforts, however, prosecutions and convictions for trafficking still leave a lot of gap given the scale of the problem. Figures for investigations, prosecution and conviction of government officials participating or complicit in trafficking for the period under review are unavailable. This is problematic given the close links that traffickers and smugglers have

especially with local law enforcement and other officials. Local level officials are labeled to be key participants in trafficking and smuggling as they are often involved in recruiting, forgery and falsification of document, and issuing ID card for minors.

6.2.5 Furthermore, data compilation on prosecutions and convictions by regional states continue to be hampered by financial and capacity constraints. For instance, the figures on prosecution and convictions in the first 6 months of the current budget year for Tigray and Afar regions are unavailable. More importantly, data showing the proportion of these convictions applicable to trafficking of women and children are unavailable.

6.2.6 Special attention to prosecution of trafficking in women and children is lacking. The Government has not developed a specific program to try and punish traffickers of women and children.

6.2.7 Another major gap in the government's efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls is the undue focus on transnational trafficking to the detriment of internal trafficking, especially sex trafficking which risks perpetuating such crimes since perpetrators are less likely to be prosecuted.

Recommendations

6.2.8 The GoE should :

- Take serious measures to prosecute officials involved in trafficking in persons;
- Improve reporting mechanisms on trafficking;
- Adopt a specific program dealing with traffickers of women and children;
- Provide adequate attention and resources to combat internal trafficking, especially sex trafficking.

6.3 Protection and rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking

6.3.1 GoE accepted recommendations to increase efforts in developing measures for the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in persons.

Progress

6.3.2 The 2015 trafficking Proclamation requires the government, in partnership with foreign diplomatic missions, concerned government and non-government organizations, and other supportive mass organizations, to put in place necessary working procedures to identify, rescue, repatriate and rehabilitate victims. The Proclamation also provides that victims shall be accorded health and social services, medical care, counselling and psychological assistance.

6.3.3 During the years 2015 -2017 the Ethiopian government, in partnership with international organizations and NGOs identified thousands of victims of trafficking in route. A major obstacle in identifying victims of trafficking among outbound populations is the absence of standard procedures to be used by frontline defenders to identify and refer victims.

6.3.4 The government provides temporary assistance to intercepted migrants including food, water, medical assistance, temporary accommodation and transportation. The government jointly operates migration response centers with IOM, which provide individualized and direct assistance to migrants in need including those who have been captured in route. The centers also have established mechanisms to identify and refer migrants in need to specialized services. The government also runs shelters for trafficking victims in the compounds of its diplomatic missions in some destination states.

Gaps and challenges

6.3.5 Rehabilitation service remains to be a huge gap. Though the government partners with international organizations and NGOs to provide services to victims, this only includes in kind support to NGOs providing victim services. There are only a handful of NGOs that provide rehabilitation and reintegration services for women and girl victims of trafficking, and their facilities operate on a project-fund basis making care unpredictable.

6.3.6 Even though a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for referring trafficking victims to social services was finalized in 2016, the extent of implementation remains undocumented.

6.3.7 The 2015 trafficking Proclamation also provides for the establishment of a fund to prevent, control, and rehabilitate victims of trafficking.^{xvii} The fund, however, is yet to be established. The Council of Ministers is yet to issue the regulation that the Proclamation states should be issued to determine the management and procedure of the fund and the accountability of the body administering it.

6.3.8 Lack of standard procedures for frontline responders to proactively identify trafficking victims among vulnerable migrants is a major problem undermining government efforts to protect trafficking victims.

Recommendations

6.3.9 The GoE should:

- Adopt standard procedures to enable front line defenders to identify trafficking victims;
- Set up the national fund as provided for in the trafficking proclamation
- Enhance collaboration with non-government stakeholders and expand comprehensive support to NGOs that provide victim services
- Strengthen the NRM and monitor its implementation

7. Concluding remarks

7.1 The reporting period witnessed a number of progresses in different forms of violence against women. It also demonstrated that the magnitude of the problem still remains huge and a significant amount of Ethiopian women and girls remain vulnerable to violence.

7.2 It's hoped that the above assessment provides the UPR3 of Ethiopia a good contribution from civil society for following-up the implementation of recommendations from the previous UPR.

It's the hope of the contributors that the upcoming UPR will make use of the submission by highlighting the concerns raised and taking into account the recommendations forwarded.

ⁱ These include public education and awareness creation programs, public mobilization and particularly mobilizing women in the fight against such practices, and swift enforcement of legal measures for criminal practices against women.

ⁱⁱ Previous health surveys contained limited information on certain aspects of gender based violence such as child marriage and FGM.

ⁱⁱⁱ With the introduction of the module, CSA will be able to generate credible and internationally-comparable data every five years enabling the GoE to track violence against women and intensify efforts to end it.

^{iv} In 2017/18, MoWCA reported that it has established 7 free three digit hotline numbers for children to report cases of violence committed against them raising the number of cities offering this service to 25.

^v Maria Munir, Executive Director of Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (interview conducted on 12 August, 2018).

^{vi} Ibid,

^{vii} USD 14.9 million has been allocated for the project. Three IT companies have signed contracts to digitize the justice infrastructure and a project management office under FAG has been established to oversee the implementation of the project in 2018.

^{viii} The 2016 EDHS results show that only 23% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence have sought help. Of these women, only 8% have sought help from the police.

^{ix} A 2017 report by the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI) found that of the 1,140 cases of violence against women from five regional states analyzed, 43% were either cases in which the accused was acquitted due to lack of evidence or was not tried for various reasons such as referral to traditional justice systems, abstentia, conciliation, and lack of jurisdiction. Similarly, in 2018, the Federal Attorney General's Office reported that of the 355 cases of violence against women and children it investigated, 120 were not prosecuted for lack of evidence, accused's abstentia and conciliation. Another reason for the low level of reporting that is usually mentioned by stakeholders is the delay in court proceedings.

^x The System of Justice for Children in Ethiopia: An Assessment of Key Processes, Actors and Initiatives (AAU Office of Research Directorate, 2017), p 112.

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} To reduce human trafficking, GTPII plans to increase the number of people who will receive awareness raising education from 19.36 in 2014/15 to 45.632 million by 2020.

^{xiii} To be licensed, private agencies are required to deposit 1 million Ethiopian birr (\$36,363) in bank insurance to be used to assist and repatriate trafficking victims. After the lifting the 2013 ban on domestic worker employment in GCC in 2018, the government received 300 license applications from private employment agencies. The government, relying on the revised law, determined that only 20 of these met the necessary requirements for licensing.

^{xiv} The agreement requires compulsory training and orientation of Ethiopian domestic workers before arrival in Saudi Arabia. It also states that domestic workers must have bank accounts for depositing monthly salaries and must be committed to abide by the Kingdom's laws and regulations. According to the agreement, recruitment or employment costs will not be deducted from the worker's salary. The unified contract agreement provides for the establishment of a mechanism for providing help to the workers around the clock and to facilitate the settlement of contractual disputes.

^{xv} UNICEF, Child Protection Briefing Note (2016).

^{xvi} In 2016, the Federal Attorney General's Office in collaboration with civil society stakeholders conducted three trainings on victim centered investigative techniques and the new trafficking proclamation to 153 public prosecutors and judges. It also partnered with IOM to conduct ToT trainings for 30 justice sector officials and 27 prosecutors, judges and police from Gambela Regional State on how to conduct victim interviews and court proceedings for trafficking cases. The Federal Supreme Court also conducted training on trafficking and smuggling for 45 federal judges.

^{xvii} The Proclamation states that the government shall allocate a budget to the fund and provides other sources of income such as proceeds of sale of properties confiscated or fines imposed on traffickers, voluntary

contributions from individuals, governmental organizations, the private sector and CSOs, grants from international organizations and donors.