

Women's Health Association of Ethiopia (WHAE)

Annual Report

01 January – 31 December 2024

VISION

To see All Ethiopian women, lead a healthy and productive life.

MISSION

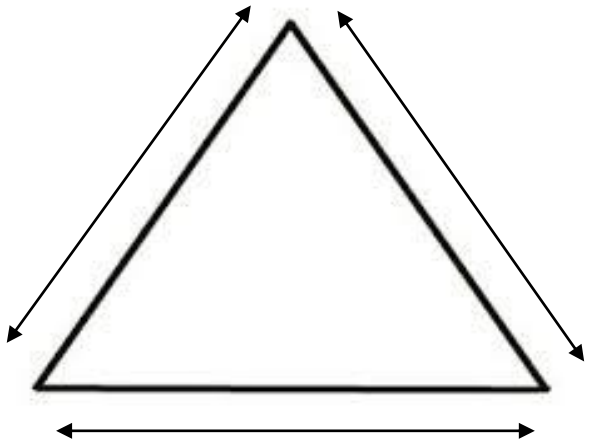
Advance the well-being of Ethiopian women to become self-reliant and participate in the country's development process.

PHILOSOPHY

WHAE firmly believes that healthy women, who are aware of and capable of meeting their needs, are the foundation of a healthy and economically sustainable society. WHAE also affirms that working with **a small group of women for an extended period of time** results in positive changes in the women's lives.

APPROACH

We use a Triangular Approach in our implementation of our programs. We focus on local unit women, their husbands as well as their sons and daughters.



PROGRAMS

Health Education

Economic Empowerment

Peace Education

Girls Mentorship

Daycare

Capacity Building

LOCAL UNIT NUMBERS AND OPERATION AREAS

A total of three-hundred fifty-seven (357) local unit members in Addis Ababa Gulele (36) (Harar 46), (Jimma (49), Hagere Selam (50), Arbaminch (22), Assosa (43), Chancho (39), Debre Berhan (47) and Wolkite (25).

THE 2024 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

The goals outlined in WHAE's 2022–2026 Strategic Plan have been the main emphasis of the 2024 Activity Implementation Plan.

I HEALTH EDUCATION

Promoting health, developing healthy habits and skills

i) Monthly Health Education

WHAE was able to increase the number of local units from 220 in 2023 to 357 in 2024. Indirect beneficiaries of the monthly health education (five individuals per household) are about 1500 men and women.

After thirteen years of using monthly health education during coffee drinking rituals, the centerpiece of which is women's reproductive health and reproductive rights education, WHAE ascertains that it is still the most effective and impactful means of communicating health knowledge to local unit women.

Coffee drinking ritual fosters bonding, openness and ease among participants and has proved to be an effective strategy of enhancing health knowledge and of preserving the social, mental, and physical health of local units.

WHAE was also able to update its Reproductive Health Manual which included many features of sexual reproductive health.



Monthly Health Education Session, Debre Berhan

ii) Vital Signs Check-up

Upholding health and wellness

Nurses monitor the numbers of local unit women during the monthly health education sessions to assess physical health and identify potential medical problems. They keep records of the women's readings on individual charts, and if problems occur, they either refer them to health centers or offer dietary advice.



Wolkite

iii) Community Health Education (GOT)

A strategic move to engage community women

One hundred twenty-five (125) newly recruited GOT members have participated in the monthly health education sessions in Addis Ababa (25), Chancho (25), Harar (25), Jimma (25) and Assosa (25).



Jimma

WHAE was able to graduate one hundred and ten (110) GOT members (community women who are key in mobilizing the community) as well during campaigns in 2024 and provided them with certificates: Gulele (20), Harar (23) and Assosa (25), Chancho (17), and Jimma (25).



Assosa

iv) Health Insurance

Enhanced access to healthcare services to local units and their family members.

WHAE has paid the government Community Based Health Insurance for all local unit women in 2024 so that they have better access to healthcare services.

v) Cleaning Campaign

Preventing disease, enhancing health and ensuring personal hygiene

Eight project areas organized 37 quarterly cleaning campaigns (Chancho organized 12) in 2024, involving 1, 827 community members. Cleaning campaign is an integral part of the health education program, complementing personal and household hygiene education.

WHAE provided cleaning materials, including vests, shoes, capes, brooms, masks, etc., to local unit and community women. The women also received body and laundry soaps after clean up.



Assosa



Soap Distribution After Clean Up, Harar

vi) Urban Gardening

Making an impact on nutrition intake and nutrition security

During the planting season, all local unit women received vegetable seeds such as Swiss chard, cabbage, carrots, and tomatoes to sow in their backyards or in pots. WHAE provided pots for those who had no plots as well as gardening tools.



Seed Distribution, Dega Ocholo



Assosa

vii) Monthly Saving & Lottery Award

Provision of household items through lottery awards



Lottery Award, Dega Ocholo

Encouraging the culture of saving

Encouraging financial literacy and inculcating the value of discipline

Local unit women are encouraged to make personal and group savings, having a group and personal bank accounts.



Monthly Saving, Debre Berhan

viii) Male Engagement

Engaging men to promote women's reproductive rights, marital harmony and create awareness of adolescence and its challenges.

Men are trained and strengthened to become active players in their respective households as well as the community. Hundred (100) men (25 in each region) were offered male engagement trainings in Assosa, Harar, Jimma, and Debre Berhan. The topics discussed included Reproductive health, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Puberty and Parental Responsibility, Civility and Volunteerism. Each region recruited three Peace Ambassadors who would go out into their communities and promote peace and harmony.



Male Engagement Training, Debre Berhan



Male Engagement Training, Harar



Appreciation to Participants, Jimma



Appreciation to Participants, Harar

II ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Promoting self-reliance

I Income-generation

a) Arbaminch (Dega Ocholo) Local Unit

Twenty-two (22) local unit women are engaged in Avocado growing in Dega Ocholo which is an hour drive from Arbaminch. By taking out loans from their group account, the women also fatten goats and cultivate sweet potatoes to sustain themselves until they begin to benefit from selling avocados.







Loan Disbursement, Dega Ocholo

b) Chancho old and new local units teff farms

Two local units in Chancho have been farming teff the past two years and the local units are benefitting from the sales.



Teff Harvest, Chancho

c) Harar local unit businesses

Harar local unit women are engaged in a group spice/food processing (Baltina). Five women also conduct individual businesses ranging from injera making to other small businesses.





Harar local unit baltina business

d) Jimma local unit businesses

Jimma has two local units: one local unit produces body and clothes soap and trying to find its market in Jimma. The other group is engaged in individual income-generating activities and generating income to their respective households.



Group Soap Production



Individual Business

e) Debre Berhan local unit

Debre Berhan local unit graduated in 2024 and is still linked to Enat Bank, accessing loans. The new local unit has been recruited in 2024 and has not yet begun generating income.

f) Assosa poultry farm

The farm is currently run by one local unit member as the rest of the women preferred to engage in individual income generating activities. Some of the women have kiosks, most sell injera, others are engaged in grain sells and one local unit woman runs an eatery.





Ownership means empowerment, Assosa



Proud to own a stall, Assosa

g) Wolkite local unit

Wolkite local is has been established at the end of 2024 and the women attend the monthly health education sessions and had participated in the Annual Formal Health training.

h) Hagere Selam local unit

WHAE reestablished contact with Hagere Selam local unit. There are currently 50 women in the local unit. WHAE developed a three-year proposal, once the proposal has been evaluated and approved, the program was launched in December 2024 and health education sessions have been in effect since then. Hagere Selam local unit is engaged in goat and sheep fattening until the planting season when they sow teff.



Sheep fattening

III PEACE EDUCATION

Promoting positive mental health, emotional well-being and marital harmony

Monthly peace education has been taking place in all regions. During monthly health discussion sessions peace and conflict resolution discussions were held by local unit members through the facilitation of the regional coordinator and the nurse.



Discussion on peace during monthly health education, Jimma

IV GIRLS MENTORSHIP

Promoting health, building skills, fostering sisterhood and forging young leaders

The objectives of the girls' mentorship program are to improve the health of young and vulnerable girls, upgrade their school performance, reduce school dropout rates and enhance their soft skills. Gulele has 31 girls, Chancho 25 and Hagere Selam 25.



Reproductive Health Education, Gulele

No girl misses class for lack of sanitary material



Sanitary Material Distribution, Gulele & Chancho





Honoring the right to play, Yaya Village, Gulele & Chancho Girls



Fostering Sisterhood, Ya Ya Village, Chancho Girls



Nurturing sisterhood, Yaya Village, Gulele Girls

V DAYCARE

Advancing the right to women's economic empowerment, girls' education, gender equality and child safety.

The right to women's economic empowerment, girls' education, gender equality and child safety are inseparable from the right to work and live. Therefore, WHAE provides yearly training to daycare assistants, supervisors, and leaders in order to improve child safety. Fifty-four daycare assistants and twenty-five supervisors have been trained in 2024.



Daycare Assistant Graduation Ceremony, Harmony Hotel



Daycare Supervisor Graduation Ceremony, Harmony Hotel

VI CAPACITY BUILDING

Ensuring organizational development

WHAE endeavors to enhance the capacity of its staff at all levels and provides capacity building opportunities to its staff. In 2024, five Head Office and Regional Staff had taken courses in Project Management (MA), Marketing Management (Degree), Accounting (Degree), Project Management (Certificate) and Photography and Editing (Certificate).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual General Meeting was held on March 9, 2024 at the Inter Luxury Hotel. Members, Regional Coordinators, representatives of local unit women and a representative of the Authority for Civil Society Organizations have attended the meeting. The 2023 Activity Report, the 2023 audited financial report, the 2024 Implementation Plan and budget have been presented to the general assembly and they were approved after questions and discussions. Amendments on WHAE by law have been

presented which generated discussion and recommendations. The bylaw was postponed to the next general Assembly for approval.



March 9, 2024 General Assembly

BOARD MEETINGS AND DECISIONS

The Board met three times in 2024: March 9, May 18 and October 12. Some of the decisions made by the Board during the meetings was to conduct advocacy on breast cancer, work on a sponsorship package to submitted to banks and businesses, develop a social enterprise guideline, increase membership fee, recruit organizational members (May 18th meeting); looking for fundraising opportunities, hold a retreat after the 2024 GA to draft the 2027 – 2030 strategic plan.

COMMUNITY WIDE AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

In July 2024 SRHR campaigns were held in all regions on breast and cervical cancer, family planning, GBV and HIV/AIDS, reaching more than 12,672 community members, raising awareness about reproductive health issues.

Two of the activities that stood out during the reproductive health campaigns were: Jimma region held a discussion with 150 young men and women (100 between the ages of 15 and 18, 40 who are between the ages of 12 and 14 and 10 between 10 and 11). It was

quite a success for WHAE to engage such young people and sensitize them to the dangers of gender-based violence. Debre Berhan also distributed one thousand flyers on reproductive health, focusing on breast and cervical cancer awareness and the need for screening which they were able to reach at least a thousand people.



Jimma



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Debre Berhan

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual health conference was organized from 11-14 November 2024 at the Ras Amba Hotel and staff capacity training has been provided on Project Cycle Management which proved to be beneficial to head office and regional staff.



Project Cycle Management Training

EXPERIENCE-SHARING PLATFORM

Government stakeholders, including the regional finance office, health bureau and women affairs office held an experience-sharing meeting and pledged support (to advocate for breast and cervical cancer screening etc.) for local unit women and made recommendations. The Director of WHAE made a PP presentation on the programs and activities of WHAE. The government stakeholders praised WHAE for the impactful work it does in the regions which in turn encouraged them to do more to support its activities.



Experience Sharing Among Regional Steering Committee

Formal Health Training

In November, health trainings were provided on reproductive health training to 296 local unit women, specifically on breast and cervical cancer and screening, GBV, family planning, and HIV/AIDS.



Harar



Wolkite



Gulele

RAISING WHAE'S PROFILE

WHAE observed World Cancer Day, National Safe Motherhood Day, World Health Day, International Day of the Girl Child, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, International Day of Rural Women, World Food Day, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, indicating the work it does to reduce vulnerability of women to many of the issues as well as promote the resilience of women.

TERMINAL EVALUATIONS

Terminal evaluations have been made for Gulele, Wolkite, Chancho, Jimma and Assosa which were completed with success and new agreements have been signed. Launches for new local unit establishment has been done in all the regions.



Terminal Evaluation Site Visit by Steering Committee, Chancho



The Three-year Agreement Renewal Meeting, Assosa

FIELD TRIPS

WHAE program staff organized monitoring and evaluation and regular field trips to all regions and met local staff and local unit women which enabled WHAE to identify gaps and address them promptly.

WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Steering Committee meetings have taken place in all regions on a quarterly basis. The committees have provided support to local unit women

WHAE also works with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) in daycare assistant and other trainings in relation to daycare.



Steering Committee Visit, Wolkite

Members of the Authority for Civil Society Organization, that monitors the activities of civil societies in Ethiopia, paid a site visit at the Head Office and in Harar and expressed their appreciation (after interviewing head office and local staff as well as local unit women and reviewing financial and program documents) for what WHAE does to empower women.



Authority for Civil Society Organizations Site Visit, Harar

COLLABORATIONS

WHAE has participated in Go-NGO forums organized in every region by local governments and has contributed money to facilitate the forums. WHAE has participated in two UNDP meetings on Peace Building in 2024.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

WHAE was also able to establish a comprehensive baseline in 2024 that would help the organization measure performance indicators and achieve the progress of outputs and outcomes in 2025 as well as establish a trend in performance measurement.

DONOR SUPPORT

WHAE extends its appreciation to its funders: FOKUS/NKS, Partnership for Change and Twinning Partners for their continued support.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Dagmawit Shiferaw, President

Tadelech Debele

Emebet Mohamed Hassen

Zewdie Abegaz

Lidia Gebru