



RAPID WOMEN

Ethiopia

Empower Women, Build the Future

- 📍 Invest in girls' education
- 📍 Reduce gender-based violence
- 📍 Promote gender equity
- 📍 Increase domestic funding for family planning





Photo: Michael Tewelde

“...our government will leave no stone unturned to achieve gender equality and full access to family planning services.”

HER EXCELLENCY ROMAN TESFAYE, FIRST LADY OF ETHIOPIA³

Improvements in girls’ education, gender norms, and family planning will benefit Ethiopian women, their families, and the country.

SUPPORT WOMEN AND GIRLS ...

CURRENTLY IN ETHIOPIA ...

Seven out of 10 women cannot read and write.

Two out of every three women (68%) believe that wife beating is justified.¹

Four out of 10 women ages 15–49 were employed in 2011.

Half of women marry before age 17 and have their first child by age 19.²



In recent decades, Ethiopia has made impressive progress in improving socioeconomic outcomes and reducing child and maternal mortality. More children now live to celebrate their fifth birthday and enroll in primary schools. However, despite recent economic growth and improvements in education, health, and poverty reduction, women and girls in Ethiopia still face many challenges that prevent them from achieving their full potential—which affects the well-being of families and communities, and hinders national development.



1 Help Girls Remain in School

More than eight out of 10 school-age girls enroll in primary school, but only half of them complete this level. Only one in four girls proceed to the secondary education level.

More Ethiopian girls than boys drop out of school, especially at the point of transition from primary to secondary education. In 2013, only 52 percent of girls completed their primary education and 37 percent of girls were enrolled in secondary education. In 2009, more than 1.8 million adolescent girls were out of school.⁴

2 Protect Women and Girls from Violence

Two in every three Ethiopian women and girls believe that being beaten by one’s husband is acceptable. It is challenging to end violence against women because many people believe that it is a private matter. Only half of married women in Ethiopia are aware of the law against a husband beating his wife.

3 Increase Access to Family Planning

On average, women in rural Ethiopia give birth to five children. Three mothers die every two hours (13,000 women per year) due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth, and maternal mortality accounts for 30 percent of deaths among women ages 15–49.

One in five married women who want to space their births or have no more children are not using family planning.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Support girls in school to succeed in completing their education.
- Change norms and practices that expose women and girls to violence and abuse.
- Educate the community about the advantages of women’s engagement in economic activities.
- Provide a high-quality and comprehensive family planning program.

SUMMARY

A strategic, multi-faceted approach to women’s advancement, including girls’ education and family planning, is more effective than a single strategy. Taking this approach would have a major impact on Ethiopia’s development—helping to save the lives of mothers and children and improving the well-being of Ethiopian women and their families.

References:

1,2: DHS, 2011

3: http://www.waltainfo.com/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11272&pop=1&page=0&Itemid=150

4: Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Education, Education Statistics Annual Abstract 2012/13

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