



Context

Over the last two decades the total labor force of the country has more than doubled, making a crucial challenge for employment creation in the country. Youth unemployment in Ethiopia (15-24 years) hovers around 24%. The main reasons for youth unemployment include limited expansion of formal employment opportunities, rapid population growth, rapid rural-urban migration, inadequate school curricula and low quality education, skills miss-match with the labor market, low level of entrepreneurship and empowerment for youth and women, and finally, lack of access to finance.

Micro and small enterprises (MSE) have been identified by the Ethiopian government as important sources of employment and job creation, therefore the project main goal is to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its efforts to create employment for women and youth through the promotion of investment in the productive sectors of the economy, entrepreneurship development and women's economic empowerment

Strategy

With financial support of the Government of Italy through its Development Cooperation, in partnership with Ethiopian counterpart institutions, namely, Ministry Of Women Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA), Ministry of Industry (Mol), Ministry of Urban Development and Constructions (MoUDC), the project is primarily intended to contribute to create job opportunities for youth and women by strengthening their economic empowerment, facilitating access to entrepreneurship training schemes as well as facilitating access to the financial schemes.

The project's approach is: 1) improvement of the regulatory framework for entrepreneurship development for youth and women; 2) strengthen institutional capacities in the area of enterprise creation, development and investment promotion; 3) facilitate access to finance to MSME with special regard to youth and women.

The intervention aims to achieve results by supporting financial and non-financial institutions to develop entrepreneurial and technical skills of the target group (women and youth). UNIDO methodologies and tools for sustainable and inclusive enterprise development, financial and economic appraisal, including COMFAR software, will be used as a basis to train the intermediary and final beneficiaries.

Impact/Outlook

- Contribute to the sustainable economic development in the country through the creation, development and growth of Ethiopian MSMEs.
- Support and strengthen youth and women-led enterprise creation and expansion in Ethiopia and therefore boost country's youth employment through private sector development
- Facilitate access to entrepreneurship training as well as facilitate access to the financial schemes for youth and women.



At a Glance

Goal:	Youth and women entrepreneurship development and access to finance
Thematic area:	Poverty reduction, youth and women employment
Donor:	Government of Italy, Government of Austria
Partners:	Government of Ethiopia, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
Budget:	900,000€