



## ETHIOPIA\*

## Promoting inclusive political participation and leadership of WWDs in Ethiopia

**DURATION: 2026 – 2027**

Women with disabilities (WWDs) in Ethiopia face compounded and systemic challenges arising from the intersection of gender and disability. Their participation and representation in public life, particularly in decision making spaces is therefore limited. Existing legal frameworks pertaining to women with disabilities remain insufficiently disseminated and inconsistently implemented, limiting awareness, access and effective enforcement.

According to 2026 data from the National Election Board of Ethiopia, women accounted for 2,760 of the 10,934 candidates (25%) in the recent elections, representing a four-percentage-point increase compared with the 2021 elections. This rise was largely driven by greater participation of women candidates in regional council elections. However, the representation of persons with disabilities remained limited: only 276 persons with disabilities stood as candidates, among which less than one quarter were women (total of 68).



**This project aims to strengthen and promote** the inclusion, participation and empowerment of women with disabilities in political, leadership role and public life through capacity building, promoting evidence-based policymaking within institutions, public awareness and advocacy:



**Building capacities** of women with disabilities, in particular political aspirants, media and political party representatives and officials.



**Raising public awareness and challenging harmful social norms and stereotypes** on women with disabilities and advocating for disability rights through mass media.



**Developing and disseminating** inclusive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on disability rights.



**Strengthening institutional capacity** of regional councils to promote disability inclusive governance.



**Supporting strong coalitions** of women right's organizations and organizations of person with disabilities to advocate for disability- and women's right.

\*Ethiopia-Regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar.

## KEY TARGETS INCLUDE

300

WOMEN WITH  
DISABILITIES

strengthened their awareness about national and international legal frameworks to advocate for disability rights

3

COUNCILS OF YOUNG  
WOMEN WITH  
DISABILITIES

established at regional level to advocate for their rights in local public campaigns

30

MALE AND  
FEMALE  
POLITICIANS

from across political spectrum supported to promote inclusive policies and structures, including in their own political programs, and committed to share their experiences and lessons

36

RADIO PROGRAMS

aired for six months in 3 languages to challenge harmful social norms and to increase public awareness on disability right

## PARTNERSHIPS



Stakeholders include:

**Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**

**Network of Ethiopian Women's Association (NEWA)**

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Conduct capacity building and skill trainings for women with disabilities on international and national legal frameworks.
- ▶ Provide training to representatives of relevant political institutions, political parties, and of regional councils on disability inclusion and promotion of inclusive and gender responsive governance
- ▶ Establish youth councils (all members are young women with disabilities) to advocate for women's right and rights of person with disabilities.
- ▶ Broadcast radio programs to raise public awareness and challenge harmful social norms.
- ▶ Conduct training for media professionals and journalists on gender sensitive storytelling and inclusive and accessible communication.
- ▶ Organize workshop on bring together women's right organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities to strengthen advocacy on inclusivity, women's and disability rights.



Funded by  
the European Union



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