

RESULTS SUMMARY

Supporting youth livelihoods and social cohesion in urban Ethiopia

Author: PlanBørnefonden (2022)

[Find project on OpenAid](#) 

PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Youth Driving Change
	<i>Partner:</i>	Ethiopian Center for Development (ECD)
	<i>Country:</i>	Ethiopia
	<i>Period:</i>	2018-2022

CHANGE	The programme contributed to empowering young people engaged in the informal sector, including those most vulnerable and excluded, to get access to livelihoods, skills, and work opportunities. Furthermore, the local partner ECD built the capacity of young people to actively participate in and lead public decision-making in their communities. Finally, ECD has started to create social cohesion among urban refugees and host communities by facilitating interaction between urban refugees and host communities and prevention of violence.
--------	---

CONTEXT	Ethiopia is facing multi-faceted protracted crises due to climate related drought and internal conflict causing major internal displacements. Eritrean refugees are among the most vulnerable populations affected by the fighting, displacement, and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Northern Ethiopia. As a result, there has been an increase in the number of urban refugees in informal settlements in Addis Ababa, which is already a fragile urban context. It then creates a high potential for tensions between host communities and refugees.
---------	--

CONTRIBUTION	In the last five years, ECD worked with the most vulnerable young people living in fragile informal urban settlements to enhance their economic empowerment and capacity to improve community safety and resilience. Building on this partnership, Plan continues to support ECD's work across the triple-nexus to address the needs of urban refugees as well as empower them, and promote social cohesion between host communities and urban refugees, in increased fragile urban context.
--------------	---

IMAGES	 Youth economic empowerment activity by ECD  Youth-led group creating social cohesion
--------	--

[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES	The interventions support the resilience and sustainable livelihood of youth by building the economic and social capacity of young people and communities. Social cohesion was integrated by actively working with social tensions and by promoting positive co-existence between refugees and host communities in the informal settlements e.g. through effective collaboration between ECD and the Eritrean Refugee Association. ECD trained young people in vocational skills such as tailoring and catering, and entrepreneurial skills, established youth-led business groups, and supported them to develop business plans. The youth-led groups were also trained in how to participate in public decision-making, leadership skills, and self-confidence. All activities include young women and men among urban refugees and host communities in the targeted informal settlements of Addis Ababa.	
LESSONS	Important lessons learned from the programme include the smooth transition of ECD to adapt to working across the triple-nexus and integrating urban refugees in their youth economic interventions. This involves a deliberate approach of mixed youth-led business groups with both host and refugee representation as part of promoting social cohesion. In addition, lessons are that through continued dialogue and discussion with young men and women, local authorities respond to challenges relating to young people's economic opportunities, safety and violence in the community. Creating an effective platform that brings the young people together with local authorities is an essential aspect for creating safe and inclusive urban environments for all. Thereby, young people can make a meaningful change in their community. In times of crises, the role of young people is remarkable in creating public awareness and causing social cohesion.	
EVIDENCE	The partnership with ECD builds on evidence and lessons learned from the previous four years which effectively improved the capacity of vulnerable young people in business management, entrepreneurship, and collective action to promote change in their communities. Narrative reports as well as results from mixed-methods base-, mid- and endline studies carried out in 2018, 2020 and 2021 showed a highly significant positive relationship between programme participation and knowledge of funds application for businesses. Furthermore, significant results of programme contribution to youth collective action was found showing a major increase in youth who had joined together with other community members to address a problem or common issue from baseline to endline. Focus group discussions with young people engaged in the programme supported the quantitative findings and expressed that the programme contributed to the economic self-reliance of youth through skills and mindset training, linking the youth with financial institutions such as Addis Credit and Saving institute and supporting young women and men to secure credit and startup materials for their new businesses.	
DOMAINS	Development strategy priorities: Insert strategy priority	
	Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	+
	Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	-
	Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights	-
	Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights	-
	Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	+
	Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work	+