

Annual Progress Report



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ABBREVIATIONS	
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoWSA	Bureau of Women and Social Affairs
CSO	Civil Society Organization

ABBREVIATIONS

DAIT	Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training
DEC	Development Expertise Center
ECDD	Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
ETV	Ethiopian Television
FBO	Faith-Based Organizations
FGAE	Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia
FSCE	Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment
FoRB	Freedom of Religion and Belief
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
HCD	Human-Centered Design
HETI	Higher Education Technical Institutions
HQ	Headquarters
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGA	Income Generation Activities
IIPs	International Implementing Partners
IYA	Integrated Youth Activity
JHU-CCP	Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs
JSS	Joint Supportive Supervision
LSC	Leadership in Strategic Communication
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MERQ	Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Quality
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLS	Ministry of Labor and Skills
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MYP/E	Meaningful Youth Participation and Engagement
PWD	People with Disability
PYD	Positive Youth Development
QA/QI	Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement

ABBREVIATIONS	
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperatives Organization
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMT	Senior Management Team
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH/FP	Sexual and Reproductive Health/Family Planning
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education Training
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YCDF	Youth and Cultural Development Foundation
YEF	Youth Empowerment Fund
YFHS	Youth-Friendly Health Services
YFS	Youth-Friendly Services
YMP	Youth Mobilization Plan
YNSD	Youth Network for Social Development
YPDC	Youth Personality Development Center
YWD	Youth with Disability

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Ethiopia’s Integrated Youth Activity – Kefeta is a five-year Activity implemented by Amref Health Africa (Amref) and its consortium partners since August 2021. Kefeta takes an integrated approach to supporting economic and social opportunities for youth in Ethiopia by integrating democracy and good governance, basic education, higher education, economic empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health services.

The Amref-led consortium’s vision of success for Kefeta is to have Ethiopian youths who are game changers: empowered to advance their own economic, civic, and social development; resilient in the face of shocks; actively promoting development within their communities; and contributing to the country’s peace and prosperity. Kefeta aims to benefit at least two million Ethiopian youths in 18 cities, building their agency and capacity for advocacy

(IR1), linking them to economic opportunities (IR2), and improving their access to youth-friendly services (YFS) (IR3). The Activity does this by building the capacity of local youth-serving organizations and youth coalitions (FR1) and establishing a sustainable youth-led Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) (FR2).

Kefeta aims to strengthen the youth ecosystem in Ethiopia with integrated, multi-sectoral, youth-centered programming aligned with the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach. The Activity deploys a core package of interventions: forming youth coalitions, capacity building on youth assets, agency, and advocacy; nurturing youth-led solutions and enterprises; and creating linkages/networks for service learning. The integrated approach also incorporates employment and entrepreneurship, increasing access to YFS, strengthening the institutional capacity of youth-serving organizations, and filling system gaps to ensure youth needs are fully met.

This report comprises the achievements of the Integrated Youth Activity during the FY2023 annual reporting period (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023). The report is structured into sections by key successes, major achievements, Intermediate Results (IR), Foundational Results (FR), and crosscutting themes like gender and social inclusion, SBCC, M&E, operations, and finance.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

In the reporting year, Kefeta's key achievements include:

FR1: Building the capacity of local youth-serving organizations and youth coalitions.

This program year, Kefeta made giant strides in achieving its aim of helping young people develop democratic governance skills while building youth-led institutions' capacity by empowering the younger generation with the right governance, advocacy, and leadership skills. This program year, the number of youth coalition members increased by 44% from 47,273 at the end of FY2022 to 68,497 in FY2023. The numerical growth happened amidst equity gains, with 46% of the 21,224 joiners being females and 10% Youth with Disabilities (YwDs)/35% females across 17 target cities.

A National Youth Coalition was also formed through a fair democratic process during the National Youth Festival on April 30, 2023. This coalition provides a safe and sustainable platform for the youth to engage in meaningful dialogues and advocate for policy, social, and economic changes at the national level. Similarly, Kefeta facilitated the formation of three regional youth coalitions in Oromiya, Amhara, and Addis Ababa.

The youth coalitions have confidently voiced their issues on institutional platforms, showcasing their unwavering belief in their cause. They have honed their leadership skills through experience-sharing forums while strengthening their networks. With a sense of purpose and determination, they have gained capacity and formed sustainable institutions, paving the way for a brighter future.

IR1: Building the agency and capacity of Ethiopian youth for advocacy.

Kefeta's initiatives profoundly impacted the youth, markedly increasing youth civic engagement activities such as voicing, youth-led community mobilizations, social-action projects, and peace forum participation throughout the reporting fiscal year. Continuous capacity development programs, encompassing leadership, management, advocacy, active citizenship, and other foundational skills training, expanded our reach from 1,864 youth in Q1 to 4,056 in Q4.

- ✚ In FY2023, Kefeta provided organizational leadership and management training for 286 youth coalition leaders (41% females, 8% YwDs/8 females), enhancing their leadership skills to lead their routine coalition activities. The performance is 100% of the annual target (285).
- ✚ Trained 51 participants (31% females, four YwDs /two females/) from CSOs and coalition leaders *in* Leadership in Strategic Communication (LSC). Performance is 71% of the target (72).
- ✚ Cascaded youth advocacy training to 3,026 youth coalition members (48% females and 5% YWDs /47% females). Performance is 80% from target (3,800).
- ✚ 3,384 youth (51% female and 4% YWDs /43% females/) participated in a cascade training on youth civic engagement training. The performance is 89% of the annual target (3,800).
- ✚ *ToT* was provided for 111 participants (44% female, 9% YwDs) from CSO staff, youth coalition leaders, and focal persons from government stakeholders on community engagement Kick-off. The performance is 102% of the annual target (109). Subsequently, 3,427 (50% females and 3% YwDs /32 females) youth from 16 cities were trained on community mobilization skills.

Kefeta's volunteerism efforts thrived, engaging 12,854 youth volunteers across 16 cities in various activities, achieving over 85% of the annual target. The unique Kefeta National Youth Festival was a triumphant event, drawing about 17,000 youth to partake in a rich array of activities, reaching an impressive 88% of its target. Similar youth festivals were held in Hawassa and Bahir Dar, each attended by over 4,000 youths. Moreover, Kefeta's peacebuilding dialogue forums resonated well, engaging over 6,317 youth and community members (45% females and 2% YwDs, 45% females), mainly in conflict-affected cities. The forums acted as a collaborative platform for youth and older individuals to discuss and formulate potential conflict resolution strategies, achieving 91% of the annual target.

Through these capacity-building supports and structured interventions, Kefeta significantly contributed to USAID's strategy to ensure youth engagement in Ethiopia's economy and society. This is a crucial step towards leveraging the potential of the country's youth population and creating a brighter future for all.

IR2: Linking Ethiopian youth to economic opportunities.

Kefeta successfully bridged employment opportunities for 3,111 (61% female and 50 YwDs/20 females/) youth by enhancing their employability skills in various domains such as life skills, entrepreneurship, effective work habits, financial literacy, and functional literacy. Additionally, Kefeta facilitated internship/apprenticeship opportunities for 864 youth (39% Female), providing an array of employability skills training and structured youth economic support, including:

- **Life skills Training:** Kefeta provided ToT training on life skills, functional literacy, effective work habits, and entrepreneurship for 323 (29% females) CSO staff, HEI focal persons, and volunteer training facilitators. Following the ToTs, life skills training was cascaded to 14,787 youths (52% female and 3% YwDs/48% females/and 1% other marginalized groups (commercial sex workers and internally displaced youth) in all the intervention cities. The aim was to enhance the employability skills of youth. The performance is 81% of its annual target (18,345).
- **Functional Literacy – Level I:** 4,324 (69% female and 3% YwDs/33% females) youth who had not been able to read and write and did not have numeracy skills attended the Level I Functional Literacy (FL) sessions for three months in all the 17 intervention cities. FL is helping youth improve their reading and numeracy skills, as well as improve their livelihoods. The performance is 95% of its annual target (4,560).
- **Functional Literacy – Level II:** 3,261 out-of-school youth (66% females and 36 YwDs/24 females) who had completed Level I FL training attended the Level II FL program. This performance is 72% of the annual plan (4,560). At the end of the Level II training, all the youth have taken the “*Ye Birhan Mizena*” exam, administrated by the Ministry of Education (MoE). This exam serves as a gateway for students to join the formal government education curriculum at grade four, and those who pass it with a score above 75% will enter grade four of the government education system. Of 1,346 (52% females, 15 YwDs/6 females/) who completed the training and took the exam, 88% scored above 75%, passed the exam, and joined formal education.
- In addition, Kefeta conducted an Out-of-School Literacy Assessment (OLA) in all the intervention cities using Lot Quality Assurance System (LQAS) methods to analyze the effectiveness of the FL program. Cognizant of this, 228 youth who completed Level II FL were interviewed with this standard measurement tool. The OLA incorporates six literacy domains (letter naming, word reading, real-life material reading, oral reading, oral comprehension, and silent reading and comprehension). Accordingly, of the 228 sampled youth, over 77% passed the assessment in almost all the domains.
- **Employability/effective work habits:** 12,912 youth (45% females and 2% YwDs/43% females) attended the employability/effective work habits training. Of the total trained youth, 7,049 (44% females and 1% YwDs/62% females) were from the 20 target universities and TVETs in 10 cities. The training helped them advance their career readiness opportunities. The achievement is at 93% of the annual target of 13,900.
- **Basic Business Skills Training:** 1,899 (51% females and 51 YwDs/45% females) from the 16 cities were trained on basic business skills for three days with a 100% performance from the annual plan of 1,900.
- **Entrepreneurship training:** 8,790 youth (49% female and 205 YwDs/48% female) and 60 other marginalized groups (commercial sex workers and internally displaced youth /72% females/) from the 16 target cities were trained on entrepreneurship for three days. Of the trainees, 483 youth (246 females) started small businesses, such as poultry, tailoring, fast food, vegetable petty trading, small-scale shops, etc. The training performance is at 83% of its annual target -10,564.
- **Business development support for youth:** Kefeta supported 1,899 (51% females and 3% YwDs/45% Female/) young entrepreneurs and startups by connecting them with business role models through job

shadowing, facilitating business-to-business platforms, arranging business incubation, and business development services (BDS).

- **Basic Financial Literacy:** Financial literacy training was provided to 1,542 youth, including 50% females, 66 YwDs /48% females, and 29 other marginalized groups such as commercial sex workers and internally displaced youth in all the target cities over 3 days. The training was beneficial for young people on the entrepreneurship pathway to start their businesses and young people seeking wage employment. This achievement is 81% of the annual target of 1,100.
- **Urban agriculture:** Kefeta also facilitated urban agriculture opportunities for those youth who had received functional literacy and entrepreneurship training. 308 (39% females) youth are currently engaged in poultry and vegetable production businesses in 9 cities (Dire Dawa, Adama, Bishoftu, Hawassa, Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Gambella, Jimma and Assosa).
- **Job fairs:** Kefeta organized four job fairs in selected large intervention cities (Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Bahir Dar, and Dire Dawa) with 2,130 youth participants (35% females and 2% YwDs /54% females/) attending the fairs. The youth had a chance to discuss with employers and provided their resumes for possible follow-up and placements. Employers also had an opportunity to interact with youth trained by Kefeta and matched to their labor needs.
- **Youth Employment Linkage:** Kefeta placed 2,597 (64% females and 42 YwDs/18 females/) young employees for wage employment in the private sector, public sector, and government organizations. Another 514 (46% females and 8 YwDs/2 females/) youth become self-employed, and out of them, 308 (39% females) were engaged in urban agricultural activities, namely, poultry and vegetable production in the nine intervention cities (Dire Dawa, Adama, Bishoftu, Hawassa, Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Gambella, Jimma and Assosa). In total, 3,111 youth were employed in the past year, with 61% females. The performance is 213% from the annual plan (1,460). This higher achievement resulted from improved collaboration work with the private sector.
- **Internship:** Kefeta's consortium provided opportunities for 372 youth (47% females and 31 YwDs/13 females/), including architects supporting the remodeling of youth hubs and health workers providing FP/SRH services at the service delivery outlets. In addition, Kefeta has linked 559 graduating students (30% females) to internship/apprenticeship opportunities through the university-industry linkage initiatives. The performance stands at 93% against the annual target for internship -1000.

Kefeta's concerted efforts have significantly bolstered the employability and livelihood of many young people, aligning with USAID's country strategy objective 4, IR 4.2, to enhance youth skills development, employment, and positive societal contribution.

FR2: Establishing a sustainable youth-led Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF)

Young people are exercising their financial empowerment by accessing a sustainable financial system through Kefeta's unwavering support to the 13 Youth SACCOs. During the reporting period, Kefeta organized General Assembly meetings with 1,124 Kefeta SACCO youth representatives (45% female and 6% YwDs/53% female) who purchased the minimum required shares. In addition, sixteen youth coalitions have started implementing community development projects after receiving capacity development support and social grants from Kefeta.

- ✚ **SACCO orientation for youth and membership:** Partnering with the target cities' cooperative offices, Kefeta delivered SACCO concept training to 564 interested youth (46% female and 25 YwDs/12 females), surpassing the annual target by 113%. The establishment of Youth SACCOs expanded to nine cities in FY2023, elevating the total SACCOs from 4 to 13 during the reporting year. Membership in

these SACCOs soared to 3,981 (42% female and 9% YwDs), with youth purchasing equity shares valued at 4,712,250.00 Birr.

- ✚ *SACCO Loan*: Eight Kefeta Youth SACCOs initiated loan provisions for their members, disbursing 2,787,325 Birr to 80 members (44% female) in the last six months, following a 4-month consecutive saving period by members.
- ✚ *SACCO Technology*: A partnership agreement with Awash International Bank paved the way for SACCO FinTech, culminating in a full technology rollout within the primaries. Awash endowed \$500,000 worth of SACCO financial technology to our Kefeta Youth SACCO, facilitating digital financial and loan management support, including on mobile devices.
- ✚ *Youth Business Enterprise Support*: Kefeta provided technical and financial support to five innovative youth-led businesses in collaboration with Tatarwochu that have shown promising growth, hiring 41 young people and encouraging others to follow their footprints. In addition, Kefeta supported 37 youth-led business enterprises in 14 intervention cities with 399 employed youth members (40% females and one YwD).
- ✚ *Social grant*: Kefeta's financial and technical support fueled youth-led social grants addressing community issues identified by the youth. The project allocated funds (\$ 5,000 each) for 16 social grants, with the youth rallying an additional 50% of the resources from the community after a resource mobilization training by Kefeta.
- ✚ *Seed Grant*: Using the seed grant component of the youth empowerment fund, Kefeta remodeled 40 service delivery outlets (youth hubs, SRH corners in health facilities, Career Development Centers) and provided essential tools and materials, augmenting the provision of comprehensive SRH and other youth-friendly services.

The YEF interventions were meticulously crafted to combat youth's structural challenges around financial access. These interventions significantly align with USAID's strategy under SO2, IR 2.4, to mitigate hurdles to essential social services. The overarching ambition is to forge a robust model for other programs to ensure the sustainability of the established systems post-project phase-out.

IR3: Improving youth access to youth-friendly services (YFS)

The remodeled 40 service delivery outlets have been pivotal in augmenting the uptake of FP/SRH, serving 294,392 youth, 70% of whom are females and 864 are young people with disabilities, exceeding the annual target by 11%.

- ***Peer mentors' cascade for SRH service uptake***: Kefeta's SRH manual provided a 3-day SRH/FP training for 357 peer mentors (60% females and 13 YwDs). The peer mentors cascaded the training to 4,131 youth (60% female and 4% YwDs/47% Females/) through peer-to-peer mentorship sessions. In addition, 1,984 peer mentors (63% females and 12 YwDs) from different target cities participated in a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) training facilitated by health service providers who received a Training-of-Trainers from the project.
- ***SGBV care and referrals***: Kefeta provided counseling and other services for 216 GBV cases (2 YwDs) in the SRH corners. These cases were also successfully linked to the one-stop centers for advanced care and additional psychosocial support. The achievement is 76% of the target (285).
- ***Mental health interventions***: Kefeta provided mental health and psychosocial support, including trauma-informed care for 248 frontline service providers (67% females and one male YwD) from Kefeta's service delivery outlets. Through its social media channels (mainly Telegram), 2,950 viewers visited Kefeta's messages over the mental health month. The performance is 89% of the annual target (280).

- **Centers of excellence:** During the reporting year, Kefeta completed the remodeling of 40 youth-friendly SDPs (20 youth hubs, 6 health centers youth-friendly service corners, 6 HEI clinics, 6 career development centers, and two youth-friendly service corners in the industrial parks). To make these SDPs youth-friendly, Kefeta also provided computers, refrigerators, televisions, and other supplies based on actual felt needs. Kefeta has established eight centers of excellence for the FP/SRH services provision in selected eight health facilities. Particular focus has been provided to the centers of excellence, and further expansion is planned in the coming FY.

These interventions predominantly target young women, making up 70% of the beneficiaries, thereby addressing gender disparities and promoting more significant healthcare equity. The capacity enhancement of health system actors will elevate the overall quality of care, aligning with SO4 IR 4.5 on health system strengthening to foster a more inclusive and supportive healthcare ecosystem for all.

Crosscutting themes

Social and behavior change (SBC)

- **Capacity building for youth on Audio-video Production:** Kefeta honed the skills of 29 youth (31% female, one YwD) in video and audio production, empowering them to craft effective SBC materials. This cohort comprised interns, radio program hosts, and Kefeta coalition staff from Addis Ababa, Dessie, and Hawassa.
- **Transmedia campaign:** Kefeta aired 46 radio program episodes on eight radio channels (Bisrat FM 101.1, FM 97.1, Amhara Media Corporation (AMICO), Jimma Fana FM 98.1, Assela Fana FM 90.0, Shashemene Fana FM 103.4, Haromaya Fana FM 94.8, and Dilla University community radio). These youth-led radio programs focused on mindset shifts around FP/SRH, SGBV, Mental Health, SACCO, and Financial literacy.
- **Training on SBC:** Kefeta conducted a basic orientation training on SBC for 39 CSOs' staff (59% female and 3% YwDs). The training aimed to provide skills for developing advocacy messages and setting objectives.
- **Distribution of SBC Materials:** Kefeta disseminated over 74,357 SBC materials across all intervention cities, achieving 87% of its annual target, thereby enriching community awareness on various thematic areas.

Private sector engagement and CSO capacity building

- **Corporate collaborations:** Kefeta engaged with the private sector by mapping 87 private companies in different sectors, including hospitality, agriculture, banking, financial institutions, textile, and other industries across all intervention cities. Of these, 12 companies signed MoUs with Amref Health Africa and its CSOs to collaborate with the project in providing employment opportunities and capacity-building initiatives, showing the project's partnership success.

- **Twinning partnerships:** Kefeta facilitated twinning partnerships between 7 CSOs and four international partners. The twinned partners developed MoUs and started implementing the agreed capacity improvement plan after the training held in the second quarter to improve CSO capacities. This activity improved the project's sustainability by building the capacity of local CSOs to continue promoting social and behavioral change beyond the project's lifetime.

These initiatives have enriched civil society and private sector engagement, aligning with USAID's unique objective and SO, fostering a more vigorous policy dialogue, citizen advocacy, and a private sector-led economic upswing, ultimately bridging the gap between job supply and demand.

Collaboration with other USG partners

- Kefeta continued its collaboration with USG partners and IPs, including RFSA led by CRS, HBA led by FHI-360, and WWAs led by Care International and Plan International. The collaborations were cemented by signing 14 letters of collaboration (LoC) between Kefeta and other USG partners.

Technical Assistance and Joint Supportive Supervision (TA and JSS)

- **TA and JSS Protocols:** The Kefeta team developed SOPs on different layers of TA and JSS approaches to enhance the capacity of front-line staff. Accordingly, Kefeta's thematic leads and advisors organized a comprehensive bottom-up TA for all service providers, training facilitators, SACCO members and staff, and CSO management bodies on the different intervention packages and service integration. The platform was useful as it allowed all staff to be on the same page. The participants also evidenced that the bottom-up TA boosted motivation and energy in increasing synergy and service quality and uptake. The TA was organized in three cluster cities (Hawassa, Dire Dawa, and Addis Ababa) that covered ten intervention cities. A similar TA is planned in the remaining clusters in FY2024.

Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation (LME)

- **DHIS2-based Database:** Kefeta's LME team implemented virtual and in-person coaching and mentoring sessions on data capturing, processing, and visualization across intervention cities for the full rollout of the DHIS2 database. In addition, Kefeta provided DHIS2 training for 227 (47% females) frontline service providers, SACCO officers and managers, and mid and senior-level Kefeta project staff. Because of backlog data before DHIS2 full rollout, we are not yet 100% digital.
- **Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (LME) capacity and practice assessment:** To design and implement evidence-based capacity strengthening to MEL staffs of the CSOs, an assessment was conducted by MERQ in March and April of 2023 using the adapted Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Assessment Tool (MECAT). The assessment's main purpose was to improve staff capacity in activity implementation and enhance skills in collaboration, learning, and adaptation (CLA) practices.
- **Routine Data Quality Assurance (RDQA):** Kefeta's resource partner, MERQ, provided RDQA training for all frontline and senior Kefeta staff. The training aimed to equip staff with the necessary skills to measure and report. Kefeta's contribution to achieving its results per the set indicators outlined in the LME plan. The three-day training was provided for 169 (50% females) frontline and central Kefeta staff on LME practices, quality improvement and quality assurance (QI/QA) principles, and RDQA.

- ***Measurement of SBC Interventions:*** Kefeta conducted a reach and recall assessment in May 2023 to assess the reach and quality of the radio program among youths. 908 youth (453 or 50% females and 235 or 26% YwDs) participated in the assessment. Findings indicate that 531 (59%) youth heard, saw, or watched Kefeta program messages. Female youth had slightly higher levels of exposure to Kefeta messages than male youth at about 279 (62%) versus 252 (55%) exposure, respectively.