

Norwegian Church Aid Ethiopia Peacebuilding Programme

Implementing Partners

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID (LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCY)
AND ACT CHURCH OF SWEDEN

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH - DEVELOPMENT AND IN-
TER-CHURCH AID COMMISSION (EOC-DICAC)

ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS – PEACE
OFFICE (EECMY-PO)

ETHIOPIAN MUSLIMS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EMDA)

ETHIOPIAN MUSLIMS RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIA-
TION (EMRDA)

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF ETHIOPIA (IRCE)



*Towards a National Agenda for Peace
and Social Cohesion in Ethiopia:
Faith Actors' Response*

Our Goal:

A more inclusive society in Ethiopia for women and youth, more cohesive, and advancing towards sustainable peace.

Why this Goal?

A deteriorating social capital in the country as a result of a changing socio-political environment, polarization, and antagonistic views among political parties has slowed down different peace efforts. In some parts of the country, ethnic and religious extremism has further exacerbated conflicts. This requires dialogue, a strong conflict handling mechanism, and coordination. Norwegian Church Aid seeks to build the engagement and capacity of faith-based organizations (FBOs), which are key stakeholders in peacebuilding to advance social cohesion and sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

Who We Work With

Norwegian Church Aid Ethiopia launched a peacebuilding programme in 2019 titled Towards a National Agenda for Peace and Social Cohesion in Ethiopia: A Faith Actors Response in partnership with the Church of Sweden. The Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) support the programme.

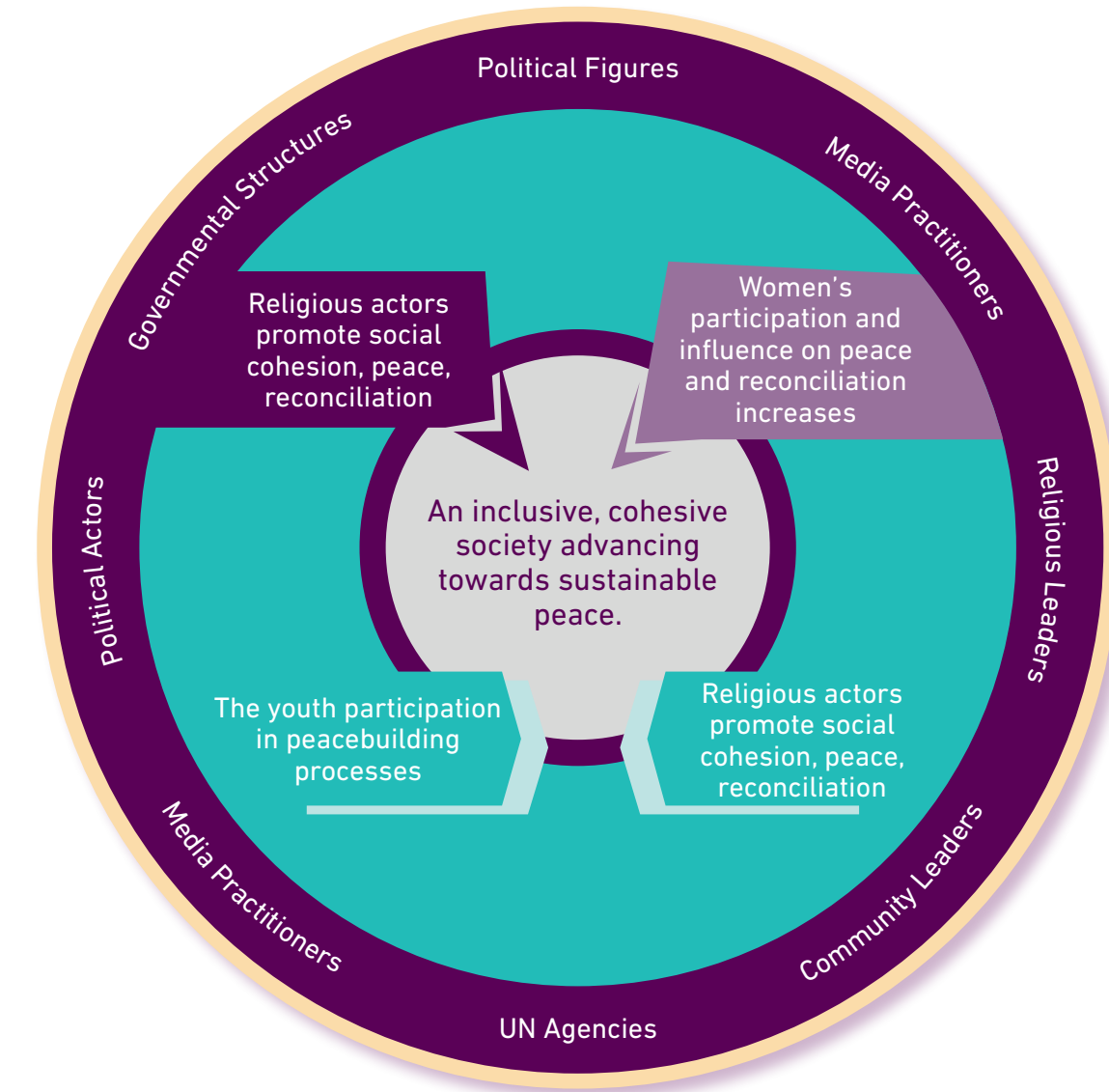
The peacebuilding programme mobilizes religious actors, men, women, and youth, that represent faith communities and faith institutions in Ethiopia in order to promote social cohesion and strengthen weak and non-existing conflict handling mechanisms.

It supports inter-faith interventions to address the current conflict dynamics in Ethiopia dominated by identity-related, inter-communal tension, and violence through conflict transformation and reconciliation interventions.

Why Faith Actors?

One of the identified stakeholders, with a history in peacebuilding, experience, and tools, but one with untapped capital, are religious actors, their institutions, infrastructure, and constituencies.

Religious actors have leverage and are influential on both local and national levels with strong structures. Their presence at all levels of society from national to grassroots offers them opportunities to inform and influence processes. This facilitates the linking of local and national level peace and advocacy efforts. We believe that the inclusion of faith values in peace and reconciliation activities will contribute to sustainable peace and transform conflicts. Moreover, inclusive joint interfaith peace initiatives contribute to trust and access in conflict-affected communities.



The geographic focus might change during the program implementation period depending on the context and developments.

Four expected outcomes:

- Outcome 1:** Religious actors promote social cohesion, peace, and reconciliation on local and national levels.
- Outcome 2:** Participation and influence of women of faith in promoting social cohesion, peace, and reconciliation on local and national levels are increased.
- Outcome 3:** Participation and influence of youth in peace processes is increased.
- Outcome 4:** Programme providers' capacity and quality of interventions are enhanced.

Where We Work

The peacebuilding programme will be implemented on both national and regional levels. On the national level, most of the activities will take place in, or be coordinated from, the capital Addis Ababa.

Regionally, the focus is to work in areas that have significant social cohesion gaps and that are affected by intercommunal violence. These include: Western part of Oromia bordering Benishangul Gumz, Bale and West Arsi Zones of Oromia, Gambella, and Amhara Regions. The programme also aims to reach other key conflict hotspot areas.

The geographic focus might change during the programme implementation period depending on the context and developments.