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FORUM FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (FSS)

INCLUDE

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

INCLUDE-ETHIOPIA E-NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO THE INCLUDE-ETHIOPIA NEWSLETTER!

This edition covers the recent inception workshop for the *"Productive Employment and Decent Work for Youth and Women in the Textile and Garment Manufacturing Sector in Ethiopia"* project, also known as the *INCLUDE* project.

Implemented by the Forum for Social Studies (FSS) in collaboration with the INCLUDE platform, this initiative aims to bridge the gap between knowledge generation and policy-making through evidence-based dialogue and policy engagement.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Workshop summary
- Key presentations
- Main themes & insights
- Next steps & future engagements
- Upcoming events

WORKSHOP SUMMARY AND KEY PRESENTATIONS

On June 20, 2024, the INCLUDE project was officially launched at an inception workshop held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa.

The event gathered over 20 participants, including representatives from policy-making bodies, key ministries, agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and international organizations such as the ILO and Solidaridad.



KEY PRESENTATIONS:

- Dr. Yeraswork Admassie (APD Lead) welcomed participants and introduced the project's objectives, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing employment challenges in the textile and garment sector.
- Dr. Assefa Admassie (Project Member) provided an overview of the INCLUDE platform and the APD-Ethiopia project, highlighting the goal of fostering productive employment and decent work for women and youth.
- Dr. Degnet Abebaw (Project Lead) presented an inception paper, detailing the state of employment conditions in Ethiopia's textile and garment sector and outlining the project's expected outcomes.
- Dr. Ezana Amdework (Project and MEL Coordinator) presented a background paper on the state of labor and the decent work agenda in Ethiopia. His presentation covered national and international legislation governing the labor market, key indicators of decent work, and Ethiopia's scores on various decent work indicators.

MAIN THEMES & INSIGHTS

- 1. Minimum Wage Implementation:** The workshop underscored the urgent need for a minimum wage policy to address low wages and improve working conditions. Participants agreed that setting a minimum wage is essential to attracting responsible foreign investment and preventing worker exploitation.
- 2. Decent Work Deficit:** The discussions highlighted several deficits, including inadequate social protection, poor working conditions, and limited unionization. These issues contribute to high turnover rates and job dissatisfaction among workers, particularly affecting female employees.
- 3. Policy Implementation:** While Ethiopia has a robust policy framework, effective implementation remains a challenge. The workshop emphasized the importance of developing strategies for enforcing labor laws and enhancing cooperation among stakeholders.
- 4. Social Protection and Safety:** The weakness of social protection measures, such as workplace daycares and safety from harassment, particularly for female workers, was a critical concern.

The need for comprehensive safety net programs and better living conditions for workers was highlighted.

5. Role of Stakeholders: Participants discussed the roles of various stakeholders, including the government, CSOs, media, academia, trade unions, and employers. Collaboration and social dialogue were emphasized as key to achieving the project's goals.



NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

The INCLUDE project will continue to engage stakeholders through policy dialogues, workshops, and roundtables. These activities aim to produce policy briefs, reports, and targeted recommendations to improve working conditions in the textile and garment sector.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Policy Roundtables:** Focused discussions with policymakers to refine strategies for decent work and productive employment.
- **Research and Data Collection:** Gathering data to enhance understanding of labor market conditions and inform policy decisions.
- **Networking and Partnerships:** Strengthening networks and partnerships among stakeholders to ensure a collaborative approach to addressing the project's objectives.

CALL TO ACTION

We encourage all stakeholders to stay engaged and contribute to this important initiative. Your insights and participation are vital in shaping the future of employment in Ethiopia's textile and garment sector.

STAY CONNECTED !

For more information about the INCLUDE project and upcoming events, please visit our website or contact us at [ruthefrrem.a@gmail.com].

Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable future for all workers in Ethiopia.

INCLUDE-Ethiopia Team



ABOUT FSS

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), an independent Ethiopian organization, has been conducting development-related research and policy dialogue since 1998. Over 25 years, FSS has produced publications and managed a public education program through FM radio and newspapers.

ABOUT INCLUDE

INCLUDE, founded in 2012 by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is an African-Dutch platform uniting researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to advance inclusive development in Africa. It promotes evidence-based policies through research, dialogue, and collaboration between African and Dutch policymakers.


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This newsletter is a publication of the INCLUDE-Ethiopia project, dedicated to promoting productive employment and decent work in Ethiopia's textile and garment sector.