



# PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN ETHIOPIA



## AN INITIATIVE TO SET UP THE AFRICAN POLICY DIALOGUE (APD-ETHIOPIA)


### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), in collaboration with the INCLUDE platform, is leading a 24-month project to establish African Policy Dialogues in Ethiopia (APD-Ethiopia) from February 2024 to January 2026. The project aims to bridge the gap between knowledge generation and policy making to advance productive employment and decent work for youth and women.

By facilitating evidence-based dialogue and engagement among diverse policy actors, the project seeks to inform policy making, address policy and knowledge gaps, and improve work opportunities for women and youth in Ethiopia.

### ABOUT FSS

Forum for Social Studies (FSS) is an independent, not-for-profit organization registered under Ethiopian.



Since its establishment in 1998, FSS has conducted research and analysis to develop and communicate policy ideas to policymakers, influencers, stakeholders, and the public. Over the past 25 years, FSS has engaged in development-related research and policy dialogue, produced numerous publications, and managed a successful public education program via FM radio and newspapers.

## **ABOUT INCLUDE**

**INCLUDE** is an African-Dutch platform comprising researchers, practitioners, and policymakers dedicated to advancing inclusive development in Africa. Founded in 2012 by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, INCLUDE fosters evidence-based insights through rigorous research, policy dialogues, and knowledge sharing. Its mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge to inform more inclusive policies through facilitating collaboration between policymakers in Africa and the Netherlands.

## **RATIONALE**

The textile and garment sub-sectors are key drivers of industrial transformation, significantly contributing to Ethiopia's GDP and formal employment, particularly for youth and women. For instance, women makeup over 60% of the workforce in the textile industry. Despite these encouraging trends, challenges like a lack of focused studies and policy responses on decent jobs for youth and women remain.

Furthermore, policy, implementation, and knowledge gaps persist, and investigating these issues is crucial for policy development.

This initiative will conduct policy-relevant research to stimulate dialogue and evidence-based engagement among stakeholders.

The project aims to narrow the gaps in knowledge, evidence and policy implementation through research and continuous engagement with policymakers and key stakeholders.

The expected results include:

- Creating partnerships and networks among policy actors
- Stimulating dialogue on decent work and labor market conditions
- Fostering public interest in productive employment and decent work
- Increasing stakeholder engagement with the productive employment and decent work agenda

## **OBJECTIVES**

Establishment of the African Policy Dialogues in Ethiopia (APD-Ethiopia) in order to bridge the gap between knowledge generation and policy making or practice.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Identify levels and trends of employment opportunities created in the textile and garment sub-sectors for youth, women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups (e.g. rural-urban migrants)
- Analyze gaps and challenges facing the sub-sectors to creating productive and decent employment opportunities, especially for youths and women and;
- Establish a platform for government policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to engage in informed policy dialogues on decent employment of youths and women in textile and garment sub-sectors in Ethiopia.

## ABOUT PROJECT STAFF

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| YERASWORK<br>ADMASSIE (PHD) | <b>APD Lead</b>                                  |
| DEGNET ABEBAW<br>(PHD)      | <b>Project Lead</b>                              |
| ASSEFA ADMASSIE<br>(PHD)    | <b>Project Member</b>                            |
| EZANA AMDEWORK<br>(PHD)     | <b>Project and MEL Coordinator</b>               |
| ABERA WOLDEKIDAN<br>(M.A.)  | <b>Media &amp; Communication<br/>Team Lead</b>   |
| FANAYE FEKADE<br>(MA)       | <b>Media &amp; Communication Team<br/>Member</b> |
| RUTH EFREM (BA)             | <b>MEL Officer</b>                               |






## TENTATIVE ACTIVITY OUTLINE


| <b>NO</b> | <b>ACTIVITY</b>   | <b>OBJECTIVE</b>  | <b>ACTORS</b>   | <b>KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS</b>  |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|
| 1         | Inception workshop                                      | Building partnership and network among relevant policy actors and project launching | Policymakers; Workers' and employers' organizations; other key stakeholders | Workshop proceedings   |
| 2         | Intermediate workshop                                   | Strengthening Network and partnership of key actors                                 | -   | Workshop proceedings   |
| 3         | Research & workshop                                     | Informed stakeholder discussion   | Policymakers; Workers' and employers' organizations; other key stakeholders | Draft synthesis report   |
| 4         | Final policy conference & roundtables                   | Research and evidence dissemination/validation                                      | -   | Final research report<br>Policy brief (Amharic & English)                |
| 5         | Media outreach through print, electronic & social media | Advocacy, public awareness creation   | Target stakeholders & the general public                                    | Workshop proceedings, key research findings & resource person interviews |

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