

GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUTRITION (GCAN) INTEGRATION INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

Volume. 1/ December 2025

WELCOME TO THE GCAN-ETHIOPIA NEWSLETTER!

The Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition (GCAN) Integration Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Forum for Social Studies (FSS) and IFPRI to advance evidence-based and inclusive climate policy in Ethiopia. Following the official launch of the project on 20 February 2025, GCAN has Created a platform for policy dialogue and strengthened stakeholder commitment to sustained collaboration.

Since then, the FSS team has undertaken key activities focused on policy engagement, evidence generation, and capacity strengthening. This newsletter serves as a regular communication channel to share progress, milestones, and upcoming activities. While published biannually, this inaugural issue offers an overview of GCAN's progress to date and includes updates from the global initiative. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.



About the GCAN Integration Initiative in Ethiopia

The Gender Climate Change and Nutrition (GCAN) Integration Initiative in Ethiopia is a collaborative effort led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in partnership with FSS and Women Empowerment Action (WE-Action). The initiative promotes the integration of gender equality, women's empowerment, and nutrition objectives into agricultural investments, policies, and climate change actions.

The GCAN Initiative aims to:

- Ensure systematic integration of gender, climate, and nutrition in policy and practice
- Strengthen institutional and technical capacity across sectors
- Improve cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence
- Support evidence-based decision-making and inclusive policy engagement

ABOUT IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), is a local non-profit organization engaged in policy-oriented research and dialogue facilitation. Under GCAN, FSS leads the overall implementation of the initiative, including policy engagement, stakeholder coordination, analytical work, and communication. FSS has already taken significant steps toward establishing a strong foundation for GCAN's policy work. The organization is currently preparing to coordinate a stakeholder training program, based on findings from capacity assessments study and priority intervention areas.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is a global research organization that provides evidence-based policy solutions to improve food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and gender equality. Within the Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN), IFPRI leads research and analytical work that shows how gender dynamics, climate risks, and nutrition outcomes interact, and supports tools and capacity building to guide integrated decision-making.

Women Empowerment Action (WE-Action) is an Ethiopian feminist intersectional organization committed to advancing equal rights, combating gender discrimination, and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. As a woman-led institution, WE-Action envisions a Gender-Just Ethiopia, with a mission empower women and men for gender equality transformation and sustained livelihoods.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. FSS and IFPRI Signed Project Agreement

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS) signed a project agreement with IFPRI on 1 August 2024 to implement the GCAN Integration Initiative in Ethiopia. The project, which runs through 30 June 2027, focuses on policy engagement and capacity strengthening to promote the integration of gender and nutrition considerations into climate change policies and actions.

2. FSS Conducted Policy Analysis

Following the signing of the project agreement with IFPRI, the FSS GCAN Ethiopia team initiated a policy analysis to better understand the national policy environment surrounding gender, climate change, and nutrition. The analysis, conducted by renowned scholar and civil society practitioner Dessalegn Rahmeto, established a strong foundation for GCAN's policy engagement work in Ethiopia.

The policy landscape analysis offers a detailed examination of the current policy context in the areas of gender, climate change, and nutrition, and highlights initial opportunities for future policy and research dialogue. This provides a solid basis for focused and strategic collaboration in upcoming GCAN activities. The full report can be accessed at:

<https://fss-ethiopia.org/gcan/>

3. GCAN First Multi-Stakeholder Platform Workshop

The first Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) workshop of GCAN was held on 20 February 2025 at Elilly International Hotel in Addis Ababa, bringing together 40 representatives from government ministries, CSOs, academia, and the media. The workshop featured presentations on the GCAN initiative, the impacts of climate change on smallholder farmers, Ethiopia's policy landscape on gender, climate, and nutrition, and the broader effects of climate change on agriculture and food systems. Across presentations and discussions, participants underscored the need for integrated approaches, stronger national evidence, a deeper understanding of gender dynamics, and context-specific interventions particularly for diverse agro-ecological and pastoral areas.

4. FSS Conducted Capacity Needs Assessment Study

The FSS GCAN team, in collaboration with IFPRI-Ethiopia, conducted a capacity needs assessment from February – June, 2025 using expert surveys and key informant interviews to examine gaps in integrating gender, climate change, and nutrition. The survey captured organizational and systemic capacities among professionals working in these fields, while the interviews explored contextual challenges, existing strengths, and opportunities for targeted interventions and collaboration.

5. GCAN-Ethiopia Participates in Regional Partners Workshop

The FSS GCAN-Ethiopia team participated in a partner workshop held from June 16–19, 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together the IFPRI GCAN team and partners from Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal, alongside expert guest speakers. During this workshop, the FSS team presented the preliminary KII findings, and the Ethiopian policy landscape as it regards to Gender climate change and Nutrition.

6. FSS Convenes the 2nd Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Workshop

The second GCAN Multi-Stakeholder Platform workshop was held on 21 October 2025 at the Forum for Social Studies meeting Hall in Addis Ababa, bringing together 22 participants from government, CSOs, academia, and the media. The program shared updates on GCAN activities and presented research evidence on the links between gender, climate change and mobility. Presentations highlighted how climate stress is deepening gender disparities, influencing mobility and livelihoods, and undermining food and nutrition security. Discussions emphasized the need for community-driven, context-specific approaches that integrate reproductive health services, indigenous knowledge, and climate-resilient livelihood options.



Upcoming Activities:

- Validation of the findings of the key informant interview
- Third multi-stakeholder discussion forum
- Capacity development training of government and non government actor stakeholders
- Launch of the GCAN social media pages and email listing
- Launch of monthly webinar series

Stay Connected:

- For further information and updates, please visit: <http://www.fss-ethiopia.org>
- For inquiries or feedback, contact:
- Dr. Selam Esayas (Project Lead)
Email: selamaau@gmail.com
Phone: +251911931040
- Abera Woldekidan (Communication officer); Email: abera.delhi@gmail.com
Phone: +25111-1545605/06



FSS GCAN TEAM PARTICIPATING IN A PARTNER WORKSHOP. NAIROBI, KENYA
PHOTO CREDIT: IFPRI TEAM



PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND MSP WORKSHOP. ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
PHOTO CREDIT: THE REPORTER NEWSPAPER

CONTACT US

-  fss.ethiopia@gmail.com
- Follow us on our social media
  
-  P.O.Box 25864 Code 1000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

This newsletter is a publication of the GCAN-Ethiopia project, dedicated to promoting the integration of gender equality, and nutrition objectives into climate change actions in Ethiopia.

Visit the **GCAN** website for more information!