

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

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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. GCAN National Conference

The FSS GCAN team organized a one-day GCAN National Conference under the theme “Empowering Women for Sustainable Futures: Addressing Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition” on March 17, 2026. It was attended by more than 35 participants representing various governmental, non-governmental, academic, and research institutes as well as media representatives.

This conference served as a dissemination platform that brought together the academic, practitioner, and government sectors, alongside climate change advocates and youth representatives, to share evidence, experiences, and emerging approaches at the Intersection of gender, climate change, and nutrition. The event featured a keynote address delivered by a senior government official, which underscored national commitment to advancing the nexus between Gender, climate change, and nutrition and established the strategic direction for the partnership. A multi-stakeholder panel discussion was subsequently convened, bringing together representatives from government ministries, non-governmental organizations and experts to facilitate dialogue, align priorities, and promote shared ownership of the research agenda. During the convening, three research papers were presented, providing relevant evidence to inform and ground the initiative and inquiry. Furthermore, the findings of the GCAN capacity needs assessment were disseminated, offering a critical baseline for identifying institutional gaps and guiding the design of the project and capacity-strengthening component.



2. Capacity Strengthening training was conducted

The FSS GCAN team conducted its first capacity-building training from 21–23 April 2026 in Addis Ababa, with a total of 21 participants, including 12 women, drawn from government offices, academic institutions, and civil society organizations. The training, facilitated by Women Empowerment Action (WE-Action), provided participants with an opportunity to explore practical ways of integrating gender considerations into climate change activities and mainstreaming gender in nutrition programs.



Beyond theoretical discussions, the sessions enabled trainees from diverse sectors to carry out analytical exercises and develop concrete action plans aimed at embedding gender perspectives into their implementation of climate change mitigation and food security initiatives. This hands-on approach not only strengthened participants' technical understanding but also enhanced their capacity to design and apply gender-responsive strategies in their respective fields.

3. GCAN Third Multi-Stakeholder Platform Workshop

FSS also organized its third multi-stakeholder policy dialogue session on August 11, 2026, bringing together representatives from various government ministries, CSOs, academia, and youth representatives. The dialogue emphasized the need for integrated approaches, gender-responsive policies, and sustainable solutions to address climate and nutrition challenges. Participants highlighted the importance of strengthening data systems, promoting gender-responsive budgeting, and supporting local adaptation practices.

4. Webinar Series

GCAN has launched a monthly webinar series to foster dialogue and share evidence at the intersection of gender, climate change, and nutrition. The monthly webinar series has already featured three insightful sessions. On 3 April 2026, Gebretsadik Teshager Siltanu (University of Copenhagen) presented on the role of mutual insurance networks in supporting smallholder farmers under drought risk.

On 26 June 2026, Mastewal Derara (Haramaya University) examined how cultural beliefs, gender norms, and institutional influences shape maternal nutrition. Most recently, on 29 July 2026, Abera Ogato (Addis Ababa University) discussed youth climate mobility and the role of social protection in the Gamo Highlands. Together, these webinars have provided a consistent platform for academics, practitioners, and policymakers to exchange knowledge and strengthen integrated approaches to climate resilience and nutrition security.



Upcoming Activities:

- Second round of GCAN capacity development training of government and non-government stakeholders
- GCAN partner workshop
- Fourth multi-stakeholder platform sessions
- Webinar presentations

Stay Connected:

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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!