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## Forex Auction Results Raise Questions Over Market Signals and Liquidity

Muluken Yewondwossen

Recent foreign exchange auction outcomes have produced puzzling contradictions, sparking debate among financial experts and raising questions about the National Bank of Ethiopia's visibility into actual market demand.

As previously reported, in a special foreign currency auction held on February 21, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) offered 500 million USD to commercial banks. However, 44.7 million USD remained unsold, as participating banks submitted bids totaling only 455.3 million USD.

Sector experts described the undersubscription

as "an unprecedented occurrence" in Ethiopia's forex auction system.

The outcome appeared to contradict the widely held perception of persistent foreign currency shortages in the country. Analysts were left searching for explanations, with some pointing to possible liquidity constraints

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## Ethiopia Nears Approval of Foreign Portfolio Investment Rules to Attract Global Capital

By Eyasu Zekarias

The Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA) is close to finalizing a landmark Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) directive, a regulatory framework that could open Ethiopia's capital market to international investors for the first time. The draft is currently under review by the Council of Ministers and is being described by officials as a "critical piece" in the country's financial liberalization agenda.

If approved, the directive will allow foreign institutional investors, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), and individual investors to trade in local equities and debt instruments, marking a historic shift from decades of a closed financial system. The move aligns with Ethiopia's broader transition from a state-led economy to a market-oriented financial model, aiming to improve liquidity and attract essential foreign capital.

Hana Tehelku, Director General of ECMA, said the regulations are designed to create a "predictable and robust" market infrastructure capable of hosting both conventional and specialized financial products. "We are building standard financial institutions while concurrently developing innovative instruments such as green bonds, sustainability-linked products, and Islamic finance," she explained, noting that Ethiopia is pursuing both market foundation and product innovation simultaneously.

The new rules are also part of Ethiopia's strategy to strengthen financial capacity for climate and development projects. A study conducted with FSD Ethiopia and

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# March 8 and the Economics of Symbolism

Every year on March 8, the world performs a familiar ritual. Governments issue statements, corporations launch social media campaigns, and conferences convene to celebrate the achievements of women. The language is predictable: empowerment, equality, inclusion. Yet behind this choreography lies a question rarely asked aloud—if the commitment is so universal, why does so little change?

International Women's Day has gradually evolved into one of the most widely observed symbolic events on the global calendar. But symbolism is not policy, and celebration is not economic transformation. In a year defined by geopolitical shocks, fractured supply chains and tightening global growth, the real test of women's empowerment is not rhetorical enthusiasm but economic integration.

The world marking March 8 today is far from stable. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues to distort energy and food markets. The Israel–Hamas conflict has injected fresh uncertainty into an already fragile Middle East. Meanwhile, the growing cycle of military strikes and proxy confrontations stretching from Gaza to the Red Sea—and involving Israel, Iran, the United States and allied forces—has heightened fears of a broader regional escalation. Across Asia, the uneasy balance surrounding China and Taiwan continues to cast a long shadow over global trade routes and semiconductor supply chains. Closer to Africa, tensions involving Ethiopia, Eritrea and Egypt remind us how regional rivalries can unsettle entire economic corridors.

For economists and investors, these are not abstract geopolitical dramas. They are forces that shape inflation, commodity prices, investment flows and business confidence. Conflict does not merely destroy infrastructure; it disrupts markets.

And when markets contract, it is often women who absorb the first economic shock. Women dominate the informal sector across much of the developing world—the very segment most exposed to volatility. Women-run micro and small enterprises frequently operate with thinner capital buffers, weaker access to credit and fewer institutional protections. When supply chains fracture, these businesses are often the first to collapse.

Yet this is where the International Women's Day narrative becomes strangely selective. The same institutions that celebrate women's empowerment each year continue to operate economic systems in which women remain structurally underrepresented in the arenas where capital and investment decisions are made.

Consider corporate leadership. Women remain a minority in global boardrooms and executive suites. Venture capital continues to flow overwhelmingly to male-led startups. Even development finance institutions that speak loudly about gender inclusion often struggle to translate these commitments into measurable shifts in investment patterns.

In other words, the challenge may not be a lack of awareness. It may be the persistence of symbolic politics in place of structural reform.

This matters because the case for women's economic inclusion is not primarily moral—it is economic. Diverse leadership tends to produce stronger governance, more disciplined risk management and broader innovation. Firms that draw from a wider talent pool consistently outperform those that do not.

Yet the argument is often framed as a social justice campaign rather than what it truly is: a question of economic efficiency.

Emerging economies illustrate the contradiction most clearly. Across Africa, women are among the most active entrepreneurs, operating businesses in agriculture, retail, manufacturing and services. They are also central actors in informal cross-border trade networks that sustain regional markets. Yet the transition from survival entrepreneurship to scalable enterprise remains difficult because financial systems rarely meet them halfway.

Celebrating women entrepreneurs while denying them access to capital is not empowerment. It is theater.

If March 8 is to carry real meaning in an economically fragile world, it must move beyond ceremonial recognition. The question facing governments, investors and corporations is not whether women deserve applause. It is whether economic institutions are willing to adjust the rules that currently limit women's participation in capital markets, leadership structures and investment networks.

Because the truth is uncomfortable: economies do not become inclusive through declarations.

They become inclusive when credit flows change, when boardrooms diversify, when investment committees broaden their criteria for opportunity, and when policy stops treating half the population as an afterthought.

Until then, International Women's Day risks remaining what it too often becomes—an annual celebration of potential rather than a demonstration of progress.

In a world of tightening markets and rising uncertainty, that may be a luxury the global economy can no longer afford.



By Gita Bhatt

COMMENT

## Debt Confronts Policymakers With Difficult Trade-offs

*There are few elegant, easy, or politically attractive ways to reduce debt*

For years, policymakers have treated government debt like an elastic band that could be stretched without ever snapping. They stretched during the global financial crisis and again during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, with public debt exceeding annual economic output in several major advanced economies, the question is: How much stretch is left for the next crisis? This issue of Finance & Development explores this question.

Mounting debt is causing concern across the world, and with good reason, as we explore in this issue. Debt levels in several advanced economies are the highest ever reached in peacetime, driving up borrowing costs for governments and consumers alike. Rising debt and high interest rates present policymakers with difficult choices: Raise taxes, cut spending on essential services and benefits, stoke inflation—or delay the reckoning by borrowing even more and praying markets won't impose too high a premium.

All this is making the trade-offs inherent in fiscal policy increasingly tough to manage, write the IMF's Era Dabla-Norris and Rodrigo Valdes. As societies age and economies slow, pension and health care costs are rising faster than tax receipts. In many of the advanced and emerging parts of the world, these costs are borne by a shrinking workforce.

How did debt reach such dizzying levels? Considering the United States, Alan Auerbach points to growing political polarization, which blocks the bipartisan consensus required for unpopular but needed steps, like tax increases or spending cuts. In a similar vein, Alan Blinder laments the clash between economists, with their focus on efficiency, and politicians, who can't see beyond the next elections. Politicians and economists must learn to speak each other's language, he says.

Excess saving—by the rich in advanced economies and by China overall—is fueling debts and deficits to sustain economic growth, Atif Mian says. But this “indebted demand” growth model is inherently fragile, he writes.

Fixing public finances will be difficult but not impossible, write Zsolt Darvas and Jeromin Zettelmeyer. They estimate the size of the adjustment needed in advanced European economies, including France and Germany, and conclude that well-calibrated steps, such as reforms to enhance economic growth and entrench fiscal discipline, can put debt on a sustainable path without sacrificing investment for the future. Greece, Ireland, and Portugal all faced severe fiscal crises 15 years ago—and are now paragons of discipline, they note.

Those are positive examples. And yet today's fraught geopolitics heightens the risk of supply disruptions that threaten stagflation and ultimately put more pressure on government finances, write Giancarlo Corsetti and Leonardo Melosi. Focusing on the relationship between fiscal and monetary authorities, they advance the provocative view that sustainable adjustment will likely require pragmatic tolerance of periods of above-target inflation.

While that may not appeal, neither do the alternatives. There are few elegant, easy, or politically attractive ways to reduce debt. At the same time, “fixing public finances is not about indiscriminate austerity,” write Dabla-Norris and Valdes. History shows that people are more likely to accept painful reforms if they believe the burden is shared fairly. In that spirit, they suggest measures to make government finances more transparent, which would in turn build public trust and bridge gaps between what's politically possible and technically feasible.

Daunting as all this is, hope can be found in innovation—the next wave of technological advances could revive global growth and shrink debt burdens. Still, we cannot wait for that day to begin managing debt wisely. Discipline is urgently required. The alternative, as our contributors show, is a growing risk of economic turmoil and erosion of faith in government.

*(Finance & Development – IMF newsletter, March 2026)*  
Gita Bhatt is editor in chief of F&D newsletter

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# Illegal Imports and Regulatory Gaps Endanger Ethiopia's Only Tyre Manufacturer

By Eyasu Zekarias

Horizon Addis Tyre Manufacturing (HATM), Ethiopia's pioneer and sole tyre manufacturer and a key player in East Africa's industrial landscape, has announced that its survival is under grave threat due to surging illegal tyre trade and the absence of mandatory quality standards.

Established in 1972 and currently under the MIDROC Investment Group, Horizon Addis has grown from producing four types of tyres to over 54 varieties, including specialized tyres for agriculture, industry, and military vehicles.

However, company leaders argue that these industrial achievements require urgent protection from an unregulated "shadow market" operating across Ethiopia's borders and within its cities without accountability.

The company, which boasts over half a century of history, stated that it currently faces a high existential risk due to widespread contraband trade, the lack of mandatory national quality standards, and sophisticated tax evasion methods.

Elias Gebremichael, the Marketing Section Head at HATM, told Capital that while the factory has the capacity to cover 35% to 40% of the domestic market, its actual share in the formal market is being significantly eroded by illegal traders.

He emphasized that the survival of this massive institution now depends on the speed and effectiveness of government intervention. The manufacturer identified the primary obstacle as the lack of a mandatory national standard for tyres entering Ethiopia.

To date, the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise has not implemented strict standards to prevent low-quality products from entering the market.

"Because there is no mandatory standard, the market is open to anyone," Elias stated. "Whether the tyres enter legally or via contraband across borders, they are sold openly. The lack of criteria has allowed low-quality and often dangerous products to be viewed as equal to high-quality, locally produced tyres."

The manufacturer also pointed

out another widespread deception among importers: "Ply Rating" (PR) fraud. In the tyre industry, the ply rating determines the load-bearing capacity of the tyre.

"We have a 'Capacity Analysis' method where we cut and examine the internal components of the tyre," Elias said. "We often find tyres labeled '16 Ply' for heavy trucks that don't even meet an '8 Ply' count when inspected.

"They look the same to the consumer, but they explode under pressure. This isn't just unfair competition; it's a public safety concern."

Beyond quality issues, the factory is struggling against an illegal practice known locally as "yetregate Goma" (tyres fitted on vehicles). These are tyres brought into the country fitted to a vehicle to evade import taxes.

According to Elias, while the government does not charge duty on tyres fitted on imported vehicles, the scale of this activity suggests it is being used as a strategic contraband method to bring in new or slightly used tyres in bulk.

While Horizon Addis covers high manufacturing costs—including salaries for over 800 employees and

tax obligations—contrabandists operate out of hidden warehouses with minimal overhead, he protested.

"It is estimated that the monthly tyre trade in Ethiopia exceeds 3 billion Birr," Elias told Capital. Contrabandists focus on high-demand "work vehicle" tyres—specifically for Isuzu trucks, minibuses, and 'Abadula' (LGR) vans. Because these vehicles travel long distances, their tyres wear

**"They look the same to the consumer, but they explode under pressure. This isn't just unfair competition; it's a public safety concern."**

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out quickly, making them the primary source of revenue for the sector. By controlling this segment illegally, smugglers are negatively impacting the local factory's main revenue stream. Regional traders often refuse to buy from the factory because Horizon Addis issues

our survival," the marketing head emphasized. With over 800 employees working 24 hours a day across three shifts, the factory is the livelihood for thousands of families. Although the Ministry of Industry and other relevant bodies are providing support, the pace of the solution does not match the scale of the problem.

The Horizon Addis Tyre Factory was inaugurated in 1972 by Emperor Haile Selassie and later operated as a joint venture with Slovakia's MATADOR. Since 2013, it has been fully under Horizon Plantation (MIDROC) and has significantly modernized its production.

The company data indicates that the factory is a peerless institution in the sector, producing tyres suited for Ethiopia's landscape, providing warranty services, and offering technical training.

However, the organization reiterated that unless decision-makers take immediate action regarding standard controls and anti-contraband measures, the future of the domestic tyre industry remains precarious.

legal invoices, which leaves a paper trail for tax authorities. Instead, these traders prefer to buy from illegal wholesalers in suburban warehouses who sell without documentation. "When we compare our prices to the market, we can't even factor VAT into the competition because our competitors simply don't pay the tax," Elias said. "We aren't just talking about money; we are talking about



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## Expression of Interest (EOI) for Concrete Works and Specialized Finishing.

Gift Real Estate PLC, in partnership with the Addis Abeba Housing development corporation under the 30/70 Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modality, is overseeing the development of a landmark residential project at the **LaGare site**. The project comprises 4,500 housing units designed to meet modern urban standards.

Gift Real Estate PLC is currently seeking to pre-qualify highly experienced and competent firms for the Structural Concrete Works for High-Rise Buildings (3B+G+21) and Specialized Finishing Works (Interior and Exterior).

### ✓ **Structural Concrete Works (Grade 1 Contractors)**

- Construction of MAT foundation for the three-level basements (3B).
- Execution of reinforced concrete frames for 3B+G+21 structures that comprises Formwork, reinforcement fixing, and high-strength concrete casting(C50/C40/C30).
- Compliance with rigorous safety and quality standards for high-rise construction.

### ✓ **Specialized Finishing Works**

- HCB wall work with direct gypsum plastering and external cement plastering.
- High-end floor and wall treatments (tiling, marble, and cladding).
- Installation of electrical and sanitary systems
- Turnkey interior finishing for residential and common areas (Optional if found visible).

### **Financial issues-Alternative payment modalities**

Due to the scale of the LaGare project, Gift Real Estate PLC plans to utilizes an innovative Barter & Material Offset payment system. Priority will be given to contractors with strong financial standing or to those who can operate under the following terms:

- ✓ **At good financial standing** to cast 2 to 4 slabs by its own finance source and the company will pay an equivalent amount in instalments with in an agreed period of time. The company will provide an equivalent cheque as guarantee to the contractor.
- ✓ **Purchase of housing units:** A portion of the certified executed work (IPC) will be settled through the purchase of housing units or commercial shops within the LaGare project or other GRE portfolios at pre-agreed valuations. It will be paid progressively with the construction project progress

- ✓ **Material Supply Offset:** Contractors or suppliers may settle payment for labor and services by providing equivalent construction materials required for the project (e.g., Grade 75 Rebar, Cement, or high-end Finishing items etc.).

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

Interested applicants must provide a "Capability Statement" including:

- 1. Legal Documents:** Valid Trade License, VAT Registration, and Tax Clearance.
- 2. Certification:** For Package A, evidence of **Grade 1 GC/BC** registration is mandatory.
- 3. Track Record:** A list of at least three (3) successfully completed projects of similar scale/complexity (High-rise structure).
- 4. Resource Capacity:** Profiles of key technical personnel and a list of heavy machinery/equipment owned (e.g., winches, gondola, generator , steel scaffolding for 2,500 m2 floor area,).
- 5. Financial Standing:** Audited financial statements for the last three (3) years.

### **Submission Instructions**

Interested firms must submit a Technical Capability Statement and a Financial Modality Proposal (outlining their financial standing or willing to accept the barter system / material supply capacity) within 15 days from the date announcement in sealed envelope.

### **Submission Office:**

Gift Real Estate PLC Head Office, [5th floor, PPP and Special Projects Management Department Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Physical location of the office: **Next to RAYUMMAA Building a bit down from Getu commercial center.**

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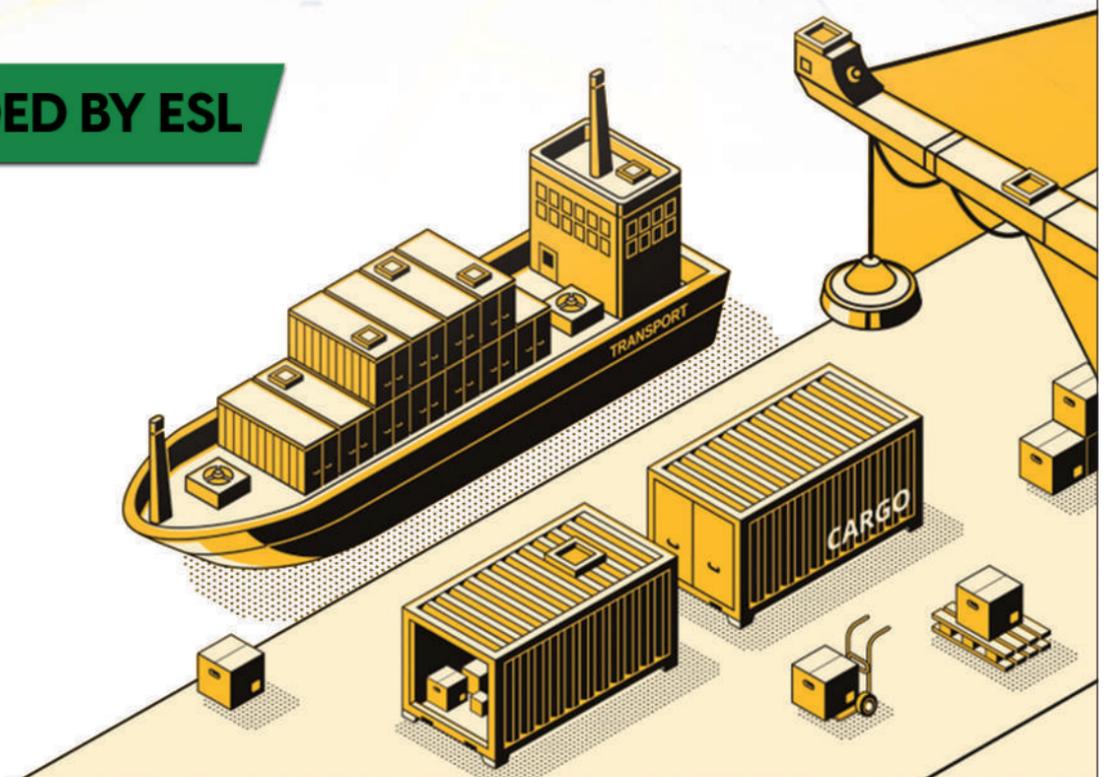


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## Forex Auction Results . . .

*Continued from page 1*

within the banking sector, while others questioned how demand could fall short when foreign currency is typically in high demand.

The uncertainty deepened just ten days later. During the regularly scheduled biweekly auction on March 3, the central bank offered 70 million USD, but banks submitted bids totaling 177 million USD—more than double the amount available.

The sharp contrast in market behavior within such a short timeframe has raised concerns about the reliability of signals emerging from the forex market and the banking system.

Tilahun Girma, a finance consultant at I Xcel Financial, Management, and IT Consultation Company, said speculation about liquidity shortages was expected but stressed that the central bank's priority remains short-term price stabilization.

“Price stabilization is a priority for the central bank until the market can regulate demand and supply by itself,” he said. However, he questioned whether the central bank currently has a sufficiently robust system to accurately measure forex demand.

Meanwhile, Eshetu Fantaye, a veteran financial industry expert and former bank president, emphasized that the lack of transparent market data makes it difficult to interpret the divergent

auction results.

“To agree with the claim that banks lacked liquidity, we need clear information,” Eshetu told Capital. “If I were a bank leader concerned about maintaining equity, I would preserve liquidity in my payment and settlement account to participate in the forex auction. But we don't have the data to confirm whether liquidity shortages caused the lower demand during the February 21 auction.”

Financial analysts have raised a central question: If the country faces a severe foreign currency shortage, why did banks not purchase the entire amount offered by the central bank?

One banking expert who heads the international banking department (IBD) at a mid-sized bank suggested that the 44.7 million USD left unsold might indicate that the market was temporarily less pressured, possibly due to recent foreign currency injections that reduced speculative demand.

Eshetu noted that properly answering such questions would require comprehensive data on letters of credit and foreign currency requests across the country's 32 commercial banks.

“But no one is trying to find out how much that is,” he said, highlighting the information gap that continues to obscure the real dynamics of the forex market.

According to his estimates, meeting Ethiopia's foreign exchange needs would require between 4 billion and 6 billion USD over the next 12 to 18 months.

“If the market is supplied with a substantial amount of foreign currency early in the reform process, it can curb expectations, speculation, and excessive demand,” he argued.

Both Eshetu and banking professionals interviewed by Capital stressed the importance of stronger data systems and market monitoring mechanisms.

Eshetu recommended that the central bank establish a digital portal linking forex demand and supply data across banks, allowing regulators to better assess market conditions.

“Otherwise, the forex market will continue to provide non-informative signals,” he warned.

He added that while banks internally track foreign currency needs based on client requests and trade financing demands, the absence of centralized visibility leaves the broader market opaque.

Bankers also cautioned that without a clearer understanding of market dynamics, pressure on the parallel foreign exchange market could intensify. While the black market rate briefly stabilized after the February 21 auction, it has reportedly begun rising again following the March 3 auction, which revealed demand exceeding the central bank's supply.

Eshetu also pointed to the Ethiopian

Petroleum Supply Enterprise as a major driver of forex demand, noting that banks working with the enterprise process significant foreign currency payments for fuel imports.

He added that the birr's 1.2 percent appreciation following the February auction may have attracted stronger participation in the subsequent sale, though the currency reportedly weakened again after Tuesday's auction.

Tilahun noted that selective market interventions are common during economic reform periods, particularly in the early stages of exchange rate liberalization.

“We need to understand the NBE's motive—stabilizing the market in the short term,” he said. “Such intervention is expected during the early phase of a free-floating exchange rate, as seen in other countries undergoing similar transitions.”

He added that banks generally determine their forex needs based on letters of credit and client demand, and this information is accessible to the central bank through existing reporting systems.

Nevertheless, he acknowledged that speculation remains a factor in auction volatility, as banks cannot see each other's bids.

“Forex price volatility will continue to depend on demand,” Tilahun said, adding that long-term stability will require policies that address both inflation and structural imbalances in foreign currency supply and demand. ■

## Ethiopia Nears Approval . . .

*Continued from page 1*

UNDP found that 92% of climate finance in Ethiopia currently comes from government sources, leaving the private sector with only 8% participation. The FPI framework is expected to facilitate greater private investment in green energy, sustainable infrastructure, and other nationally prioritized projects, supported by tax incentives.

As part of market confidence-building measures, the National Bank of Ethiopia is

preparing a National Credit Enhancement Facility to guarantee bonds issued for green and large-scale development projects. ECMA has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nigeria's InfraCredit, a successful credit guarantee institution, to draw lessons on enhancing investor confidence and lowering borrowing costs for local companies.

The regulatory package complements Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to modernize

market infrastructure. Yodit Kassa, Chief Operating Officer of the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX), said the exchange has already processed over 2 trillion birr in transactions within just five months of launching the interbank money market. She stressed the importance of DFIs as anchor investors to build private sector confidence.

Officials emphasized that the regulatory and technical measures are only part of the strategy. Clear communication and simplification of complex financial and climate-related terms are considered essential to attract global investors. “We

need to show that investing in Ethiopia is both profitable and impactful,” Yodit said, highlighting the goal of moving from policy discussions to active, practical trading in the market.

The FPI directive is expected to serve as a cornerstone for Ethiopia's market-led financial transformation, providing a legal and operational foundation for international portfolio investment and positioning the country as a new destination for global capital. ■

# Ethio Telecom, Ericsson Sign Network Deal to Boost Coverage to 85%

By our staff reporter

The Ethio Telecom has signed a major network expansion and modernization agreement with its long-time technology partner Ericsson, a move expected to significantly expand mobile connectivity and digital services across Ethiopia.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona, and forms part of Ethio Telecom's broader efforts to strengthen infrastructure and support the country's digital transformation.

According to the companies, the partnership will focus on upgrading existing mobile infrastructure and expanding network capacity to improve service quality and extend coverage, particularly in underserved areas.

The project is a key component of Ethio Telecom's three-year “Next

Horizon” strategy, which aims to reposition the state-owned operator as a modern digital services provider.

Under the agreement, Ericsson will modernize 1,500 mobile network sites within the areas it manages. The upgrade is expected to increase 4G capacity while also expanding access to 5G services, particularly in urban centers.

In the Ericsson-managed network zone, the modernization will create capacity for 2.8 million additional 4G users, raising total capacity in the area to around 4.1 million subscribers.

The project is also expected to significantly improve network reach. Officials say population coverage in the targeted region will increase by 45 percent, bringing overall accessibility to about 85 percent.

As part of the expansion,

LTE services will be extended to 157 additional towns, raising the total number of towns connected through the upgraded network to 276.

While the rollout of 5G technology in major cities has attracted considerable attention, both companies say the agreement places strong emphasis on expanding connectivity in rural areas.

The initiative includes tailored mobile

solutions for 75 rural localities, where network coverage and digital services have historically been limited.

Officials say improving connectivity in these areas is expected to support digital inclusion and enable broader access to mobile financial services, online education, and other digital platforms as Ethiopia works to accelerate its transition toward a digital economy. ■



The agreement made between Ethio Telecom and Ericsson at MWC in Barcelona.

# Total Body Arc Trainer

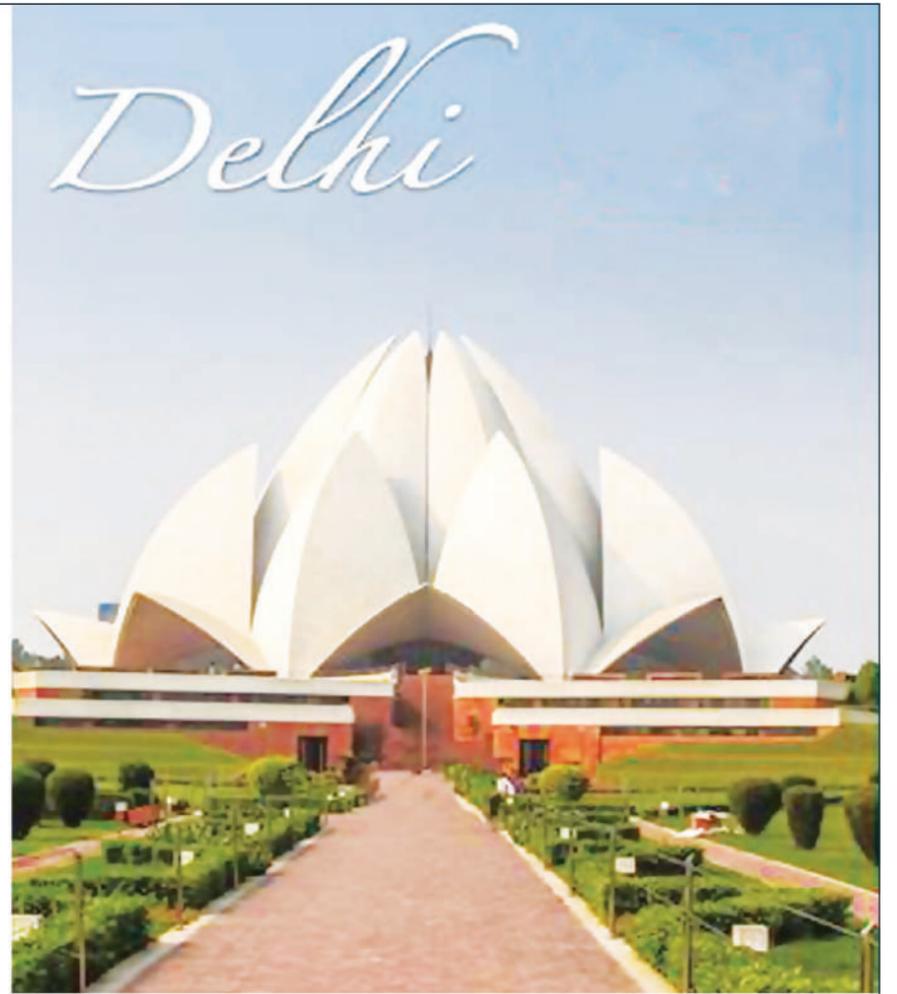


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# Horn of Africa Nations Push Regional 'Resilience Corridor' to Tackle Climate and Food Security Risks

By our staff reporter

Governments in the Horn of Africa are stepping up regional cooperation to address the growing impact of climate change, with Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia committing to a new cross-border initiative aimed at strengthening food systems and protecting livelihoods.

The pledge was announced during the second Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) summit held in Addis Ababa, where ministers and development partners emphasized the need for coordinated regional action as climate shocks increasingly affect agriculture and pastoral livelihoods across the region.

Moving away from fragmented national responses, the countries are proposing the creation of an integrated "Resilience Corridor" that would link climate adaptation strategies across borders and support the livelihoods of more than 150 million people.

The summit, held under the theme "Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa," was organized by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) with support from the World Bank.

Participants stressed that because climate change transcends national boundaries, adaptation strategies must also be regional in scope.

At the center of the new commitment is the "Addis Ababa Reaffirmation," a framework built on four strategic pillars aimed at strengthening regional resilience.

These include expanding shared climate data and early warning systems through digital platforms; developing harmonized pastoral policies and climate-smart mobility corridors for livestock; distributing drought-resistant seed varieties while protecting soil health; and aligning national agricultural investment plans with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) targets for 2025.

Daher Elmi, representing IGAD at the summit, warned that climate change poses a direct threat to agricultural productivity and livelihoods across the region.

"A coordinated regional response is both a practical necessity and a responsibility to future generations," he said.

Speakers also highlighted national efforts underway. Kefelegn Getahun, climate change and land use coordinator at the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), noted that

Ethiopia is currently undertaking large-scale land restoration programs aimed at rehabilitating millions of hectares of degraded land.

He emphasized that climate adaptation investments must increasingly rely on data-driven planning to help shift the region from vulnerability toward sustainable growth.

According to Mohamed Abdi Ware, Deputy Executive Secretary of IGAD, strengthening food systems is also essential for regional stability.

"Scarcity of water and grazing land often contributes to conflict," he said. "Ensuring reliable resources for farmers and pastoralists can help reduce the economic pressures that fuel instability."

Despite the renewed commitments, participants acknowledged that financing remains a major challenge for climate adaptation initiatives.

Experts at the summit noted that while many countries have adopted climate-smart agriculture strategies, long-term funding for implementation remains uncertain. A study presented during the discussions found that although 87 percent of regions in Kenya have developed climate plans, fewer than half have allocated budgets to implement them.

Cliff Sibusiso Dlamini, Executive Director

of CCARDESA, said the transition to climate-resilient agriculture will require more predictable financing.

"To transform agricultural production systems, we need a reliable financial horizon that goes beyond short-term aid," he said.

In response, the World Bank introduced a new financing initiative known as AgriConnect, designed to mobilize up to USD 5 billion annually through 2030. The model aims to attract private sector investment by reducing risks for banks financing agricultural development and solar-powered irrigation projects.

Regional and continental institutions are also promoting a strategy described as "Scaling Up, Out, and Deep," which focuses on strengthening policies, expanding access to climate-smart technologies, and encouraging behavioral change among farming communities.

Further financial commitments for the Horn of Africa are expected to be discussed at the African Food Systems Transformation Summit 2026, scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana, in May. Organizers say the meeting will focus on translating donor pledges into concrete investment for climate resilience and agricultural transformation across the continent.

# Procurement Reform Faces Pricing Challenges as e-GP System Expands

By our staff reporter

The Public Procurement Service (PPS) says Ethiopia's transition to an electronic procurement system is progressing despite challenges related to price verification and market volatility that continue to affect the public supply chain.

Speaking at a consultation workshop on Thursday, March 5, PPS Director General Asmare Yigezu said the electronic government procurement system—commonly known as e-GP—has not yet met all expectations but is gradually improving transparency and oversight in public spending.

"This system is still in its early stages and needs time to mature," Asmare said. "However, for the country and for this institution, it remains the most viable tool for ensuring proper management of government expenditure."

According to the Director General, the recent integration of contract administration into the e-GP platform marks an important step forward. Once fully operational, the system is expected to help monitor procurement activities more closely and reduce irregularities throughout the procurement cycle.

However, participants at the consultation—attended by public institutions and suppliers—identified indicative pricing as a major bottleneck affecting procurement timelines.

Under a new procurement framework introduced during the previous fiscal year, the Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS) is responsible for providing price analysis data used to verify government procurement costs. The requirement was reinforced by a directive that came into force in May.

Asmare noted that the statistics agency was assigned the responsibility without sufficient preparation to handle the volume of requests from public institutions.

"The directive requires all public bodies to obtain price information from the ESS," he told Capital. "When the Service attempts to respond to the growing number of requests, delays occur. These delays can postpone procurement processes and eventually lead to price revisions."

The concern was echoed by workshop participants and PPS officials, including Procurement Lead Executive Worku Gezahegn, who said the expected pricing data from the ESS has not been consistently

available.

Under the Federal Public Procurement and Property Administration Proclamation No. 1333/2024, public institutions are required to verify bid prices against official market data. If bids significantly diverge from market prices—or if official data is unavailable—procuring entities may instead rely on manufacturer prices or market surveys approved by the procurement authority.

A related directive, Public Procurement Directive No. 1073/2025, further obliges public institutions to conduct market assessments before launching tenders, with the ESS designated as the primary source of price verification.

Officials say the requirement has created an implementation gap that procurement authorities are now working to address.

"We are collaborating closely with the ESS to resolve these challenges, and the cooperation between our institutions is improving," Asmare said.

Price volatility in the broader economy has added further pressure to procurement operations. Officials say delays in price verification can discourage suppliers from

honoring bids, particularly when input costs rise between tender submission and contract signing.

In cases where official data is unavailable, producers may provide indicative prices, or procurement timelines may be extended with authorization from the relevant authority. Procurement experts, however, warn that such measures are difficult to sustain in rapidly changing markets.

Despite these challenges, officials reported notable progress in public asset disposal, another responsibility under the PPS mandate.

According to Worku, revenue generated from the sale of obsolete public assets—including vehicles and scrap materials—has increased sharply in recent years. Over the past five years, including the current fiscal year ending July 7, 2026, disposal revenue has risen by 528 percent, reaching 400 million birr.

In the first six months of the 2025/26 fiscal year alone, the government generated 208 million birr from disposal activities, primarily through auctions of old vehicles and scrap metal.

"This represents a 153 percent increase compared to the same period last fiscal year," Worku said.

The e-GP platform, introduced about three years ago under the supervision of the Public Procurement and Property Authority, now covers all federal budgetary institutions. Several regional states, including Oromia Region and Amhara Region, have also voluntarily joined the system as part of efforts to modernize public procurement processes.

# ESX Launches 'Neway' Mobile App to Expand Public Access to Capital Markets

By our staff reporter

The Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX) has launched a new digital trading platform aimed at widening public participation in the country's emerging capital market.

The platform, called "Neway," is the first web and mobile application designed to allow investors across Ethiopia to access and trade securities through digital channels. The initiative is expected to lower barriers to entry and improve access to investment opportunities in the country's nascent stock market.

The platform was developed through a partnership between ESX and technology firm Infotech Private Limited. According to the exchange, the application is integrated with its broker back-office and Order Management System (OMS), enabling brokers to manage client registration, trading orders, and

reporting more efficiently.

Designed for both first-time and experienced investors, the application allows users to register, open trading accounts, track market activity, and buy or sell listed securities—including equities and fixed-income instruments—through their mobile devices. Investors can also monitor and manage their portfolios in real time.

Officials say the platform could help address one of the major challenges facing Ethiopia's capital market: limited investor participation and access to trading infrastructure.

Speaking at the launch event, ESX Chief Executive Officer Tilahun Esmael Kassahun described the platform as a key step toward building a modern and inclusive financial market.

"This marks an important milestone in our vision of establishing a world-class securities exchange in Ethiopia," he said. "Through the

'Neway' app, investors can access the market anytime and from anywhere."

Tilahun noted that the name "Neway," which refers to wealth or assets, reflects the platform's broader objective of making capital market participation accessible to a wider

segment of the population.

"By placing the market in the hands of citizens, we are enabling more Ethiopians to participate directly in the country's economic growth," he added.

The platform is also expected to improve operational efficiency for brokerage firms by digitizing several functions traditionally handled through manual processes.

Market observers say digital trading platforms such as Neway will be critical for expanding the investor base and improving liquidity as Ethiopia works to develop a transparent and internationally competitive capital market.



At the platform launching ceremony

# Addis Ababa Authority Rejects License Plate Shortage Claims Amid Service Delay Complaints

By our staff reporter

The Addis Ababa Driver and Vehicle Licensing and Control Authority has denied claims that the city is facing a shortage of vehicle license plates, insisting that the service remains fully operational for motorists who meet the required procedures.

In a response to Capital, the Authority said there is no current deficit of license plates and that all eligible customers are being served across its branches.

The statement comes amid growing complaints from vehicle owners who say they are waiting up to a month to obtain new plates. Some customers also allege that intermediaries are demanding large unofficial payments to speed up the process.

Several motorists told Capital that delays in plate issuance have created opportunities for illegal brokers, locally referred to as “facilitators,” who offer to expedite the service for fees reaching 30,000 birr.

Under official procedures, the cost of a new license plate is around 17,000 birr, according to customers interviewed outside licensing offices.

Responding to the allegations, officials from the Authority acknowledged that a temporary shortage of Code 2 and Code 3 license plates occurred about five months ago, in early October 2025, due to printing-related issues. However, they say the disruption lasted only two days and has since been resolved.

“The rumors circulating outside originate from parties who lack accurate information.

Customers should verify facts directly with the responsible institutions,” the Authority said.

Despite the assurance, motorists visiting licensing offices say the process remains slow. Some customers told Capital that obtaining new plates can take up to 30 days, which they believe has fueled the emergence of informal brokers operating around service centers.

The issuance of new license plates is part of a broader national reform led by the Ministry of Transport and Logistics aimed at replacing older vehicle plates with a new standardized system.

Transport Minister Alemu Sime previously said the program is intended to address several long-standing challenges in the country’s vehicle registration system.

One of the primary objectives is to curb illegal

plate swapping, a practice in which individuals attach plates from auctioned or decommissioned vehicles to newly imported cars without customs clearance.

The reform is also intended to update national vehicle registration data. The last comprehensive vehicle registration was conducted in 2001/2002, and authorities estimate that Ethiopia currently has around 1.6 million vehicles. The project aims to close the data gap by producing nearly two million new plates.

Officials say the new system will also address security and discrimination concerns linked to the previous regional plate identifiers—such as those indicating Addis Ababa, Oromia, or Amhara—which in some cases exposed drivers to profiling or regional bias.

Under the new system, vehicles will instead carry a uniform national identifier, using the country codes “ETH” or “ኢት”, without regional labels.

The Ministry says the rollout of the new plates is continuing nationwide as part of efforts to modernize Ethiopia’s vehicle registration and transport management system ■

# MoE Signals Transition Period for International Schools Amid Curriculum Dispute

By Eyasu Zekarias

Ethiopia’s Ministry of Education (MoE) has signaled a possible transition period for new regulations affecting international schools, in what appears to be a move to ease growing tensions with the diplomatic and expatriate communities.

While the government maintains that integrating elements of the national curriculum into international schools is “non-negotiable,” officials indicated they may allow a gradual implementation period to reduce disruption for students, parents, and school operators.

The development follows a meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, between Education Minister Berhanu Nega, parents, and other stakeholders. The meeting was called after more than 20 international schools jointly raised concerns over the Ministry’s proposed reforms, including the “Curriculum Plus” roadmap and a requirement that at least 30% of students in international schools be foreign nationals.

According to participants, the Ministry is considering a transition period of two to three years, acknowledging the logistical and academic challenges of implementing the reforms within a single academic cycle.

As previously reported by Capital, the Ministry had initially planned to enforce the new rules beginning in September 2026. The directive also stated that schools must meet the 30% foreign student quota to retain their international status.

However, more than a dozen prominent institutions—including One Planet International School, British International School Addis

Ababa, Canadian International School Addis Ababa, and Flipper International School—have rejected the proposal. School administrators described the quota as “unreasonable, unstudied, and lacking legal basis.”

Sources familiar with the March 4 discussions said Ministry officials acknowledged the operational and educational difficulties of an immediate curriculum overhaul. The proposed transition period is intended to prevent disruption for students already enrolled in international programs, particularly those approaching national or international examinations.

Prior to the meeting, a coalition of international schools submitted a five-page position paper outlining their objections. The document argued that the directive departs from international education standards and could undermine the legal framework under which the institutions were originally licensed.

The Ministry, however, insists reforms are necessary. According to its data, Ethiopian nationals account for between 90% and 99% of students enrolled in international schools across the country. Of the more than 21,000 students currently attending such institutions, only 16.7% are foreign nationals. The Ministry also notes that 95% of teachers and 97% of administrative staff are Ethiopian.

Officials argue that this demographic reality makes it essential for Ethiopian students to learn their country’s history, language, and civic values.

Under the “Curriculum Plus” framework, international schools would be required to primarily follow the Ethiopian national curriculum while supplementing it with

international content where gaps exist.

“This will enable Ethiopian citizens to know their language, culture, and identity,” the Ministry said in a statement, adding that the reform aims to produce “ethical citizens who love their country and are internationally competitive.”

International schools strongly dispute the Ministry’s position. School administrators argue that the plan contradicts the legal definition of international schools under Ethiopia’s Education Proclamation. They say their licenses were granted specifically to deliver foreign curricula, and forcing them to adopt the national curriculum would fundamentally alter their mandate.

School representatives also claim the directive could infringe on parents’ rights to choose the type of education their children receive. They note that most international schools already teach Ethiopian history, language, and culture under earlier regulations, including Directive No. 992/2016.

Some institutions warn the reforms could trigger broader economic and social consequences. Administrators argue that abrupt changes may affect investors, disrupt students’ academic pathways, and weaken Addis Ababa’s attractiveness as a hub for diplomatic and international organizations.

As host city to major continental institutions including the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and numerous diplomatic missions, Addis Ababa relies heavily on international education services for expatriate communities.

During the meeting, Minister Berhanu addressed concerns that schools might challenge the

directive through legal or international mechanisms. Participants said he emphasized the Ethiopian government’s authority to regulate the national education system and dismissed claims that the reforms violate constitutional or international protections.

“Implementation is inevitable—the question is not whether it will happen, but how it will happen,” one participant quoted the Minister as saying.

Parents attending the meeting said the proposed transition period would give schools time to adjust teaching materials, train teachers, and align their internal assessments with the Ministry’s requirements. It would also allow students currently in the system to complete their studies under existing curricula before the reforms fully take effect.

Concerns were also raised about language of instruction. Many international schools operate entirely in English, and stakeholders worried that shifting to instruction in Ethiopian languages could affect academic performance and international recognition of qualifications.

The Ministry clarified that while schools must align their content with the national curriculum, they will not be required to abandon English as a medium of instruction.

“Learning in a mother tongue is a right, not a mandatory obligation for these specifically identified institutions,” the Minister reportedly said, indicating that English instruction can continue provided subjects such as social studies, history, and geography reflect the Ethiopian curriculum.

Despite signs of flexibility on implementation timelines, uncertainty remains around the proposed 30% foreign student quota. Ministry officials hinted that enforcement of the requirement may be delayed, though no formal decision has yet been announced.

Attempts by Capital to obtain further clarification from the Ministry on the quota were unsuccessful ■

# Bethesaida Hospital Enters Private Healthcare Market with High-Tech Facility



Among the medical machines found within Bethesaida Hospital

By our staff reporter

A new private medical facility, Bethesaida Hospital, has announced it entering Ethiopia’s healthcare market with a large-scale investment aimed at expanding access to advanced diagnostic and treatment services within the country.

The hospital, designed as a multi-level medical complex, consists of seven floors above

ground and a basement housing core technical infrastructure described by the management as the building’s “digital heart.” The facility follows what developers describe as a “vertical medical city” model, concentrating a range of specialized services within a single structure.

Five of the upper floors are allocated for inpatient wards, while the ground floor functions as a central service hub that integrates patient registration, diagnostic units, and emergency

services. The layout is intended to streamline patient flow and reduce response times for urgent care.

The project reflects the growing role of private investment in Ethiopia’s healthcare sector, particularly in advanced diagnostic and specialized treatment services that have historically driven patients to seek care abroad.

Hospital administrators say the building’s design places a strong emphasis on infection control, an area that has gained greater attention in modern hospital construction. Patient rooms are equipped with negative-pressure ventilation systems, which help prevent airborne pathogens from spreading into hallways and other hospital areas.

Operating theaters, meanwhile, are equipped with positive-pressure ventilation systems, designed to maintain sterile conditions by preventing outside air from entering surgical spaces. Additional infection-prevention measures include antibacterial flooring materials and routine antimicrobial cleaning procedures.

Patient rooms are equipped with centralized oxygen supply systems, air conditioning, private sanitation facilities, and nurse-call systems intended to support monitoring and patient care.

A significant portion of the hospital’s investment has been directed toward advanced diagnostic equipment. The facility includes a robotics-assisted cardiac catheterization laboratory (Cath Lab), rare in Africa, designed to support minimally invasive procedures used in the diagnosis and treatment of heart and vascular diseases, say the administrators.

The hospital has also installed a 160-slice CT

scanner, which enables faster imaging and improved diagnostic accuracy while reducing radiation exposure.

In laboratory services, management says the facility’s microbiology unit will be capable of identifying specific antibiotics needed to treat resistant bacterial infections, allowing physicians to move beyond broad-spectrum treatments when patients fail to respond to standard medication.

The development comes amid rising demand for specialized healthcare services in Ethiopia and growing concerns about the high volume of patients seeking medical treatment abroad. Industry observers estimate that medical travel costs Ethiopian households and the broader economy significant amounts of foreign currency each year.

Private healthcare investors have increasingly sought to address this gap by establishing facilities equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.

Bethesaida Hospital’s entry into the market reflects a broader trend in Ethiopia’s healthcare sector, where private operators are expanding capacity in specialized care, diagnostics, and hospital infrastructure to meet rising urban demand.

Whether such investments can significantly reduce outbound medical travel will depend on factors including service affordability, physician availability, and the ability of private providers to maintain advanced equipment and technical expertise over the long term, according to specialists in the field ■

# Spotlight

Ever catch the perfect picture with your digital camera or camera phone and wish you could find a way for others to experience it? Here is your chance. If you find yourself at the right place at the right time and happen to catch an amazing scene you believe someone else should see, send us your news pictures with no more than 30 words to [spotlight@capitalethiopia.com](mailto:spotlight@capitalethiopia.com) and we will publish it.

PHOTO: Anteneh Aklilu

## Interbank Market Volume Doubles in Five Months

The Ethiopian interbank money market has reached a new historic milestone, with total transaction volume officially exceeding 2 trillion birr—doubling in five months.

In a statement released this afternoon, the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX) disclosed that the market, for which it serves as the technological backbone, has achieved the significant landmark following a period of accelerated growth.

Trading activities, which commenced in October 2024, first crossed the 1 trillion Birr threshold on September 26, 2025. As of today's trading session, cumulative volume has doubled to surpass 2 trillion birr—a feat accomplished in five months.

"The milestone underscores the increasing market depth, stronger interbank activity, and growing trust among financial institutions," the ESX stated.

The surge in activity has been particularly pronounced in recent weeks. Based on a data released on Friday by the ESX Capital reported that the overnight interbank money market segment has experienced extraordinary growth.

The Exchange's weekly report for the period covering February 23 to 27, 2026, revealed record-breaking performance. A total of 125 transactions were executed during the week, with the total value of trades reaching a historic high of 87.4 billion Birr on the overnight maturity platform alone.

The rapid expansion of the money market reflects growing liquidity management and deepening collaboration within Ethiopia's financial sector, solidifying a key component of the country's developing capital market infrastructure.

## Afreximbank Sweeps 2025 Bloomberg Africa Borrower Loans League Tables; Affirming Top Spot as Africa's Leading Arranger and Bookrunner

African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has solidified its dominance in African capital markets, clinching the Number 1 ranking as both Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner in the 2025 Bloomberg Africa Borrower Loans League Tables, as well as the Number 3 ranking for Administrative Agent.

These rankings recognise the Bank's leadership in arranging debt solutions and mobilising large-scale capital from both within and outside Africa from a diverse range of investors to anchor the continent's economic growth.

The results mark a continued ranking of Afreximbank as one of Africa's market leaders at the top of the Bloomberg league tables over the past years. As Bookrunner, Afreximbank held 21.66% market share comprising 14 deals.

As Mandated Lead Arranger, the Bank accounted for 23.65% market share comprising 20 transactions. The activity, which accounted for these 20 deals, consisted primarily of syndicated transactions in the oil and gas sector, reflecting the Bank's strategic intervention in closing the significant financing gap in the sector on the continent. The Number 3 Administrative Agency ranking delivered a market share of 13.92% with 13 deals, which also over-indexed in the oil and gas sector.

The Bloomberg Africa Borrower Loans League Tables are a subset of the Bloomberg Capital Markets League Tables, which represent the top arrangers, bookrunners and advisors across a broad array of deal types including loans, bonds, equity and M&A transactions, according to Bloomberg standards. It is a critical tool for investment bankers and analysts to evaluate market share, analyse competitors and identify market trends.

(Press release)

## British Council Joins UNESCO Global Education Coalition and International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030

The British Council has been formally recognised by UNESCO as a new member of two key global education initiatives: the Global Education Coalition and the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030. This membership demonstrates and reinforces the British Council's commitment to global education recovery, equity, and innovation, and strengthens its role in shaping international policy and partnerships for inclusive, quality teaching and learning.

The Global Education Coalition was launched by UNESCO in 2020 to mitigate the impact of the educational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Post-pandemic, the Coalition's priorities have evolved to support Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Global Education Coalition is advancing transformation in the education sector, bringing together over 200 partners from governments, multilateral organisations, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and work towards our shared goals. As a Coalition member, the British Council will contribute its extensive experience in teacher development, English language education and inclusive learning to support countries in building resilient, future-ready education systems.

The British Council has also joined the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, dedicated to addressing the teacher-shortage crisis and advancing the status and support of educators worldwide. The International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, or Teacher Task Force (TTF), is a global independent alliance which raises awareness, expands knowledge and supports countries working on improving teaching quality and teacher-related issues.

(Press release)

## THE UNSUNG ENGINE



## MODERN STRUGGLE



## PORTABLE HOME



## Elevate Africa 2026 to Position Ethiopia and East Africa as Emerging Global BPO and Digital Investment Hubs

Elevate Africa 2026, a high-level continental forum convened by CCI Global in collaboration with Ethiopian Investment Holdings and MMCY Tech, is taking place from March 3-5, 2026, at Minab Spa (inside Jubilee Palace), Addis Ababa.

Bringing together more than 150 participants; including senior government officials, international corporate executives, policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovation leaders; the forum is designed to position Ethiopia and the broader East African region as competitive destinations for business process outsourcing (BPO), digital services, and investment-led job creation.

Elevate Africa serves as a strategic platform for dialogue and action around Africa's transition from untapped potential to measurable economic progress. Discussions throughout the three-day program will focus on the rise of East Africa as a digital and outsourcing hub, practical investment pathways, scalable job creation strategies, and the intersection of forward-looking policy with private sector innovation.

The forum will explore how targeted investment in digital infrastructure, skills development, and enabling regulatory frameworks can unlock new growth corridors for the continent, particularly in the fast-growing global outsourcing and technology services market.

At Elevate Africa 2026 in Addis Ababa, Brook Taye, CEO of Ethiopian Investment Holdings, participated in a fireside chat under the theme "Building Competitiveness: Ethiopia's Economic Reset." During the discussion, he highlighted Ethiopia's growing talent pool, cost competitiveness, and ongoing reform momentum as key factors positioning the country as a strong emerging hub for BPO and global services.

At the forum, Ethiopian Investment Holdings also unveiled its new BPO project - a flagship investment valued at USD 25.56 million. The project reflected EIH's strategic focus on economic diversification, strengthening SOE performance, and delivering high-impact investments that create sustainable jobs and accelerate export growth.

(Press release)

## AFD and Danish Refugee Council launch €8 million project to support women's economic resilience

As the crisis in Sudan continues to unfold, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) announces the signature of a partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in close collaboration with local feminist organizations, to provide comprehensive support to conflict-affected populations in Sudan and Ethiopia.

This €8 million initiative, funded through a grant from France and implemented by DRC, will run over a 24-month period. It focuses on access to essential services, promotes women's economic empowerment, and fosters social cohesion in Gedaref (Sudan) and Benishangul-Gumuz (Ethiopia), two regions heavily impacted by internal displacement and cross-border migration linked to the Sudanese conflict.

Since 2023, the war in Sudan has triggered one of the world's most severe displacement crises, with over 11 million people internally displaced and nearly 4 million refugees seeking safety in neighboring countries. Women and girls, who make up 54% of displaced populations, face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), food insecurity, and limited access to essential services.

This project places women and girls at the center of recovery efforts, recognizing both their specific vulnerabilities and their essential role as drivers of positive change. It will establish Women and Girls Safe Spaces offering trauma recovery services, childcare support, and financial literacy programs designed to strengthen women's collective agency and bargaining power.

(Press release)

# Capital NEWS IN BRIEF

## EDR Advances Railway Expansion Through Local Expertise

The Ethio Djibouti Railway Corporation has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding Ethiopia's railway infrastructure by strengthening domestic technical capacity and operational independence.

Chief Executive Officer of the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Corporation, Takele Uma, made the remarks as the corporation's leadership and employees marked the 130th anniversary of the Victory of Adwa with a field visit to ongoing railway development sites.

The CEO called on the current generation to honor the legacy of past heroes through tangible development achievements.

Staff members toured the AMG-Indoode Link Railway Project, a key segment under construction by the corporation using its own engineers, technicians and operational teams.

The project stands as a clear demonstration of the institution's growing ability to design, manage and execute complex railway works without external contractors

"Our forefathers built this nation through sacrifice. It is our responsibility to replicate their contribution by advancing development and strengthening national capacity," he said.

(ENA)

## Ethiopia positions digital transformation, skills dev't as drivers of economic competitiveness

Ethiopia positioned digital transformation, skills development, and macroeconomic reform as central drivers of economic competitiveness and investment-led growth.

This was asserted during the opening of the Elevate Africa 2026 forum opened in the Ethiopian capital on Tuesday, bringing global leaders together to explore opportunities in the digital services and outsourcing ecosystem.

The three-day continental forum, convened by CCI

Global in collaboration with Ethiopian Investment Holdings and MMCY, gathers more than 150 participants including government officials, corporate executives, investors, and innovation leaders. Discussions are taking place at Minab Spa within Jubilee Palace in Addis Ababa.

Opening the forum, Eyob Tekalign, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, framed Ethiopia's structural reform agenda and digital transformation as pillars of macroeconomic stability and productivity enhancement.

He noted that the Homegrown Economic Reform Program (HGER) seeks to address structural challenges, strengthen private sector participation, and modernize economic institutions while improving productivity across strategic sectors. A core component of the reform is macroeconomic stabilization, including efforts to enhance fiscal discipline, improve foreign exchange management, and create an investment-friendly environment.

(FMC)

## Ethiopia to Host "Invest in Ethiopia 2026" Forum, Targeting USD 2.4 Billion in Commitments

Ethiopia plans to seek more than USD 2.4 billion in new investment commitments during the Fourth "Invest in Ethiopia 2026" Forum, scheduled for March 26 - 27, 2026, in Addis Ababa.

The forum will take place at the Skylight Hotel under the theme "Ethiopia is Ready for Investment." It is being organized by the Ethiopian Investment Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and international development partners. Organizers said the event is intended to support Ethiopia's efforts to expand foreign direct investment inflows and strengthen engagement with global investors.

Officials said Ethiopia currently ranks second in Africa in foreign direct investment inflows and described the forum as a platform to attract large investors and finalize investment agreements. More than 800 international investors, business leaders, and policymakers are expected to attend.

Organizers also referenced outcomes from last year's third edition, which brought together 750 participants from 58 countries and led to investment agreements worth more than USD 1.6 billion with five companies in

the mining and solar energy sectors. Officials said those projects have since moved into operations, with some exporting to international markets.

(FMC)

## CBE to Strengthen Multi-Faceted Support for Manufacturing Sector: CBE President

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) will continue to bolster its comprehensive support for the manufacturing industry, bank's president, Abe Sano said.

Senior officials from the National Manufacturing Industry Council recently conducted field visits to various production facilities in Sheger, Bishoftu, and Adama.

These visits were designed to provide a firsthand understanding of the bottlenecks facing the sector and to facilitate swift solutions through the Council's mandate.

Abe, who serves as a member of the Council, informed ENA that the bank remains committed to deepening its assistance.

(ENA)

## Air Congo expands regional network amid ATR72 delays

Air Congo (4H, Kinshasa N'Djili) has announced the launch of new intra-African routes amid delays in the delivery of two new ATR72-600s leased from shareholder Ethiopian Airlines, now expected by mid-April 2026.

"Due to various factors, including testing by the manufacturers, we expect the first delivery in the first week or mid-April 2026," CEO Mesfin Biru Weldegeorgis confirmed to Ch-Aviation.

He explained that visa hold-ups for Ethiopian Airlines technical staff and Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority representatives to travel to ATR - Avions de Transport Régional in France for pre-delivery tests of the aircraft were also contributing to the delays.

Meanwhile, Air Congo has announced the launch of new international services to Johannesburg O.R. Tambo, Entebbe, Douala, Cotonou Cadjehoun, and Dar es

Salaam for March and April, representing an extensive expansion from its current sole international route to Addis Ababa International.

(Ch-Aviation)

## Ethiopia and Kazakhstan Vow to Bolster Trade Ties, Support WTO Accession

Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, Kassahun Gofe, held a productive meeting with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Ethiopia, Barlybay Sadykov, to deliberate on expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

The two sides reached an understanding to elevate economic relations to a level that reflects the growing diplomatic proximity between the two nations.

Minister Kassahun highlighted Ethiopia's evolving economic landscape, noting that the country has become a primary destination for international commerce due to ongoing structural improvements.

(ENA)

## Term of the Day

## NOTIFY PARTY

### » Definition

The person designated on a Bill of Lading, Sea Waybill or Air Waybill to be notified when a shipment arrives at its destination. This person is often responsible for arranging customs clearance and can be the buyer, consignee, shipping agent or other entity.

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# CALL FOR AUDIT PROPOSAL

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Our vision is to address the world's most critical problems with science-based solutions in pursuit of a better future. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development.

Following the termination of various USAID programs in Ethiopia, RTI will implement a U.S. Department of State-funded program in FY26. The Feed the Future Ethiopia Transforming Agriculture (ETA) activity seeks to increase access to healthy diets, particularly for women and children, by improving the competitiveness, inclusiveness, and resilience of the food and agriculture systems.

In FY 2026, RTI also participates in the implementation of the Poverty Reduced Sustainably in an Environment of Resilient and Vibrant Economy (PRReSERVE) activity, led by Food for the Hungry as the prime implementer in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. This activity seeks to address and mitigate acute levels of food insecurity experienced by communities in Amhara. In addition, RTI recently began implementing a five-year project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The project, known as SunGold, is designed to strengthen Ethiopia's underdeveloped sunflower sector. It aims to increase sunflower yields through strategic partnerships that leverage U.S. technology (seed and equipment), build the capacity of both small- and large-scale Ethiopian farmers, and expand access to finance through contract farming arrangements and innovative loan products.

RTI International Ethiopia is seeking an independent audit firm licensed by the Auditing and Accounting Board of Ethiopia (AABE) to conduct a statutory audit of the financial statements for funds received and expended under RTI International Ethiopia projects for the period **July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026**, with the possibility of extension for an additional two years.

The objective of the audit is to examine RTI's Ethiopia office operations compliance with all the relevant regulations of the FDRE and present consolidated audit report for RTI operations for the financial year operated

from **July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026.**

### Minimum Requirements:

Interested audit firms must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be legally registered and licensed to operate in Ethiopia.
- Be in good standing with the Accounting and Auditing Board of Ethiopia (AABE) and other relevant regulatory bodies.
- Have a minimum of three (3) years of experience providing audit services to INGOs, NGOs, or donor-funded projects.
- Demonstrate experience auditing U.S. Government-funded or other major donor-funded projects.
- Assign qualified and certified audit professionals to the engagement.

### Proposal Submission Requirements:

Bidders are required to submit both Technical and Financial Proposals as outlined in the RFP/Q, which is available at: <https://www.rti.org/current-opportunities>. The detailed evaluation criteria are also included in the RFP document.

### Proposal submission and deadline:

- Completed proposals must be submitted no later than **March 31, 2026, at 5:00 PM EAT.**
- Proposals (both technical and financial) must be submitted electronically to: [procurement.eta@rti.org](mailto:procurement.eta@rti.org)
- Late submissions will not be considered.

RTI International reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and/or negotiate with the selected bidder without incurring any liability to bidders.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact:

[procurement.eta@rti.org](mailto:procurement.eta@rti.org)

# The art of Reconciliation and Unalloyed Truth test beyond Archimedes principle.

By Gzachew Wolde

Truth independence get weakened if alloyed with falsehood. Forged Lies distort perception creating unreal and confusing asymptote twisting the orbit of understanding in the wrong direction. Unreal asymptote of false create purported picture making understanding a mirage. If falsehood is woven with truth, understanding is set on a path that approaches reality but is structurally prevented from arriving.

Thus, facts should be allowed to dictate narratives, as truth stands on its own shining without needing to be balanced against falsehoods. The fallacy arises when dissimilar things—truth and falsehood—are equated as if they were comparable. Such attempt obscures real truth and character. In essence, trying to give equal weight to what is true with what is false is not only futile but misleading, because it distorts reality rather than clarifying it.

Treating two opposing arguments as equally valid when one is grounded in evidence and the other is not creates clumsy picture. Facts should shape real story without any bent to fit a preconceived otherwise account. When someone insists on associating truth with falsehood, giving way for some fabricated lies to cover facts, it often change the real character of the substance. Some people are fond of such smith either with ill motives or to cover ignorance or to appear intelligent with shred of truth.

The practice of treating unsubstantiated claims as equally valid as factual ones, with the ill motives behind is a dangerous move to mislead. This is a bad practice on the go to create deception and to distort facts. Any real story should be shaped by the facts and the facts alone should clearly set the difference between intellectual honesty and performative neutrality.

Clear synthesis should be made to elevate the argument with conducive framework between performative neutrality and honesty. Intellectual honesty follows the evidence and changes its conclusion when new facts emerge conceding to new facts humbly revising old conclusions when facts demand it or when it is proved otherwise. It values accuracy over allegiance. It is humble before reality. Performative neutrality by contrast, feigns balance by equivocating between truth and falsehood, pretending all sides merit equal weight to avoid discomfort or commitment.

True neutrality isn't spineless equivocation but the courage to call falsehoods what they are, letting evidence dictate the stance cutting through undue noise, fostering real progress over polite paralysis. Truth doesn't need balancing against falsehood because it has its own convincing color and beauty and attempts to do intermix only muddy clarity and reveal hidden motives. Thus let's learn that truth can stand alone with no need to meddle it with falsehood to create undue density.

The attempt to create unreal asymptote between truths with falsehood only cloud clarity. If facts are allowed to dictate narratives precisely, truth stands radiant on its own, needing no contrived counterweight. Attempts to form equilibrium with exaggerated lies only reveal the balancer's agenda, with ideological undue bias whether for fear or favour of certain circumstance.

Unalloyed truth is self-evident and glowing. Its pure density masterfully shows how unnatural weight of mixing facts and falsehoods distorts clarity. Truth has its own inherent gravity, while falsehood is an artificial burden which unduly bends perception out of shape. Factual reality shapes perception naturally—unyielding and self-correcting. Falsehoods, by contrast, impose artificial weight, distorting the orbit of understanding into confusion or deliberate misdirection.

The independence of truth may not seem sometimes strong yet the mixing with falsehood further distort perception creating unreal asymptote twisting the path of understanding in the wrong direction. This is why embracing truth without compromise is essential—it preserves integrity and fosters trust. When we prioritize unvarnished facts, we enable clearer understanding and more informed decisions. Distorting truth with falsehoods only serves to

obscure reality, undermining both the message and the credibility of those who convey it.

However, there is the calculus of negotiation which sometimes blend truth with witty trickery to ease tensions and foster peace in high-stakes conflicts. That may be practically acceptable in Ethiopian and other local culture. Nonetheless this is not to contradict myself and bring new argument but to add a layer of complexity in different context. When there is high-stakes conflicts, practical diplomacy might involve strategic ambiguity or tactful omissions. This isn't the same as false equivalence in journalism or public discourse.

Strategic ambiguity in high-stakes diplomacy blending truth with tactful omissions can de-escalate tensions and build peace, especially in Ethiopian cultural contexts where elder-led reconciliation prioritizes harmony over blunt confrontation. This pragmatic layer complements intellectual honesty without devolving into false equivalence, as it serves specific negotiation goals rather than public equivocation

Ethiopian mediation rituals for restitution or to restore community peace, often employ indirect language to avoid revenge cycles or to create a tie-breaker between rivalries and opposes. These rituals use analogy to gently guide disputing parties towards reconciliation, allowing them to save face while acknowledging their grievances. By employing a shared cultural language, mediators craft a narrative that bridges divides, fostering a sense of unity and mutual understanding. This approach not only diffuses tension but also strengthens community bonds, ensuring long-term peace.

This method emphasizes the importance of preserving relationships over assigning blame, allowing communities to heal and move forward. By prioritizing collective well-being, these rituals demonstrate how cultural practices can transform conflict into opportunities for growth, reinforcing the value of empathy and collaboration in maintaining social harmony.

These cultural practices contribute to the resilience and cohesion of communities by promoting understanding and empathy. Over time, they help to build a foundation of trust and respect among community members, which can prevent future conflicts and foster collaboration. By valuing relationships and collective well-being, these rituals ensure that communities to be better equipped to handle challenges and adapt to change, ultimately leading to a more harmonious and stable society.

Ethiopian customary dispute resolution practices indeed bolster community resilience by rebuilding trust through elder mediation, rituals, and emphasis on reconciliation over retribution. These mechanisms promote understanding and collective well-being, preventing escalations and enabling adaptation to challenges. We need to learn from this cultural wealth to solve internal problem associated with the prevalent political fallout at different corner.

Ethiopia's cultural dispute resolution mechanisms are proven tools to address political fallout by leveraging elders' mediation for reconciliation and trust-building at national scales. Integrating them into modern processes could heal divides if applied with appropriate care. In Ethiopia, the Gadaa system of the Oromo people is a prime example of such practices in action, where traditional governance emphasizes consensus-building and conflict resolution. Similarly, the elders of the Afar community often engage in mediation through dialogue, using proverbs and stories to convey wisdom and encourage reconciliation. These real-world examples highlight how cultural traditions can effectively address disputes and promote enduring peace within communities

Even if we can't forget, we can forgive and allow old wounds to heal. Forgiveness plays a crucial role in community healing by allowing individuals or groups to release resentment and anger, which can otherwise perpetuate cycles of conflict. It opens the door to rebuilding trust and repairing relationships, creating an environment where people can come together to address shared challenges. By embracing

forgiveness, communities can transform past grievances into opportunities for growth, fostering resilience and unity.

The world routinely live interconnecting with former enemies sharing post-war, economic, social and political values even after serious combat. Just as the pure gold nature can be altered with good intentions that escapes a simple physical test, truth density can also be subtly covered to escape a hostile moment in conflicts or disputes resolution. The Unalloyed Truth may change its natural density beyond the discerning power of even proved Archimed principle for good intention.

The core message is about valuing this "cultural asset" to solve problems, even if it means obscuring some harsh truths for the sake of peace, much like altering gold's nature for a good purpose. The pursuit of absolute, "unalloyed" truth can sometimes be an obstacle to peace. The primary goal isn't a forensic investigation to assign blame. But to "reconcile and solve problem," which is presumably casting a shadow over hostility to obscure a social or political wound for the sake of pacification.

This social technology developed over generations, prioritize relationship restoration over pure justice. Ethiopian's elder reconciliation settlement mechanism offer a model of tangible amends, blending mercy striking a balance with socially acceptable sprite. The model seeks a resolution that is socially acceptable. It's about a conscious, collective decision to shift focus on good moral standards often referred to as "Shimglina". This shared desire for communal harmony sometimes may involve the payment of restitution 'guma' in some contexts, a public apology with shared meal. It somehow addresses the harm done and the unfairness behind it even if it doesn't intent with absolute eye to eye context.

**“Ethiopia's cultural dispute resolution mechanisms are proven tools to address political fallout by leveraging elders' mediation for reconciliation and trust-building at national scales.”**

It often resulted an outcome that is accepted by the community and allows everyone to move forward. This is considered as successful resolution. Thus, let's make use of our valued cultural asset to reconcile and solve our problem. What really matters is the community's shared understanding to solve the problem and allow them to live together again. Consciously choosing to "cast a shadow" over the most inflammatory and divisive aspects of the past, can allow the emergence of a "truth of reconciliation"—a shared commitment to a peaceful future. Sometimes the most valuable truths are not the ones we dig up from the past, but the ones we plant together for the future. Such socially technology speaks to anyone who has ever wondered why pure logic sometimes fails to heal pure pain.

Thank be yours for reading this little piece.

The author can be reached at: [gzachewwolde@gmail.com](mailto:gzachewwolde@gmail.com)

Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.



**Somali Regional Educational Bureau**

**Somali Regional Education Bureau Invitation for National Competitive Bid**

Somali Regional Education Bureau invites interested eligible bidders invites for Procurement mention below

SINo	Description of Item	Bid No.	Bid Type
1	Procurement of Student Bedding/Carpeting Bedding of Boarding Stbools	10/6/15/24	National Competitive Bid (NCB)

The Bid document shall be obtained commencing from Somali Regional Education Bureau; Procurement and Property Directorate; 1st Floor against payment of a non-refundable fee of Birr 600.00 (Six Hundred birr only) which shall be paid in finance Department 'Somali Regional State Education Bureau. The bid document shall be collected during office hours (Monday to Friday 8:00-12:00pm and 2:00-5: 15pm) after the announcement of news paper by presenting the payment advice. Presenting copy of renewed Trade License, Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate is a must.

Bidders who do not have any poor performance history on previous Bureau's Projects can participate in this Bid. Bidders shall be quite sure to state direct line phone number, cell phone number, fax number and e-mail address of their organization correctly while collecting bid documents. Failure in receipt of bid communication due to incorrectness of the above will not bethe responsibility of the Bureau.

Bid proposal shall be accompanied by the bid bond/Earnest Money Deposit of 2% of the item contract in the form of Unconditional Bank Guarantee or Cash Payment Order (CPO.). Bid bond/EMD in any other form is not acceptable.

Bids must be deposited in the tender box prepared for this purpose at Somali Regional Education Bureau, logistics department during office hours before 2:00 pm. Bid opening shall be held in the presence of bidders and/or their legal agents who wish to attend, on 2:30 p.m. at the place mentioned Failure to comply any of the conditions from 2 - 5 above shall result in automatic rejection.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Procurement and property Administration department, P.O. Bo 210, Jigjiga, Ethiopia, Tel: 025 775 2069, Fax 025 775 3524, or visit:<https://lethiosomi.obs.com>.

## I N T E R V I E W



**Wendwossen Kebede, a senior development leader with over 31 years of experience in international development, has dedicated his career to advancing education, public health, economic development, gender equality, and youth empowerment. Since 2015, he has served as Country Representative for Cuso International in Ethiopia, leading programs that transform communities through education and empowerment.**

**In this interview with Capital, Wendwossen shares insights on the recently concluded U-GIRLS 2 Project, a flagship initiative that has redefined girls' education in the historically marginalized Benishangul-Gumuz region.**

# “Educating a Girl Transforms a Nation”: The U-GIRLS 2 Project and the Future of Gender Equality in Ethiopia

**Capital:** The project reports an 88.4% transition rate to higher education. How does this compare to the situation six years ago?

**Wendwossen Kebede:** Our baseline assessment in 2018/19 revealed an extremely challenging educational environment for girls in Benishangul-Gumuz. The barriers were multifaceted and deeply entrenched. They included traditional gender roles that imposed heavy domestic responsibilities, leading to chronic absenteeism and dropouts; cultural taboos and economic constraints that prioritized boys' education when families had limited resources; a scarcity of female role models, exacerbated by a shortage of well-trained female teachers and a lack of women in leadership positions; pervasive safety concerns, including gender-based violence, harassment, and assault; and inadequate school infrastructure that failed to meet the specific needs of female students, particularly regarding sanitation.

In response, and in collaboration

with our technical partner, the Institute of International Education (IIE), the U-GIRLS 2 project was designed to dismantle these barriers through a three-pronged strategy: first, by enhancing girls' academic performance and leadership capabilities to foster greater autonomy; second, by raising community awareness about the critical importance of girls' education and the gendered obstacles they face; and third, by strengthening governance at regional, zonal, and woreda levels to ensure a more equitable and effective education system.

The project's launch in June 2020, however, coincided with unprecedented strain on educational systems due to COVID-19-related school closures, followed by the disruptive impact of conflict and a rise in internally displaced persons. The national crisis in secondary education was starkly illustrated by the 2022 Ethiopian Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, in which only 3.3% of candidates achieved passing scores. In this volatile context, we worked closely with local partners and Interpeace to design research-based interventions tailored to the

rapidly evolving situation.

Today, the transformation in project-supported schools is profound. Nearly 99.5% of the girls in our program completed secondary education, and 88.4% achieved the passing grades required for admission to universities and vocational institutions. These outcomes dramatically surpass those in comparison areas, where only about half of students achieved similar results. The reported 88.4% transition rate to higher education is therefore not merely an impressive statistic; it signifies a fundamental shift in opportunity for girls in one of Ethiopia's most underserved regions.

**Capital:** With CAD 14.9 million in support from the Government of Canada, what are the tangible returns on this investment?

**Wendwossen:** First and foremost, we sincerely acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. On behalf of Cuso International and all U-GIRLS 2 Project partners, I extend our deepest gratitude for their steadfast commitment to advancing girls' education and the trust they have placed in our partnership.

This investment has generated measurable and lasting returns across three key areas: educational outcomes, community transformation, and institutional capacity. Key legacy achievements include outstanding educational results: 99.5% of supported girls completed secondary school, 99.1% gained admission to university or TVET institutions, and 98.4% reported improved academic performance.

In terms of empowerment, 97.5% of girls noted increased confidence and leadership abilities, along with significant gains in life-skills knowledge, including sexual and reproductive health. Community transformation is evident, with 93% of parents and community members now actively supporting girls in pursuing higher education.

The project reached over 28,000 direct beneficiaries and approximately 700,000 indirect beneficiaries through schools and communities. Tangible in-kind support provided to project partners included 4,519 combined desks, 1,000

blackboards, 1,000 whiteboards, 140 desktop computers, solar panel systems installed in seven target schools, 100 science kits for secondary schools and 500 for primary schools, eight sound systems for school media clubs, 24,200 reference books for secondary schools and 30,000 for primary schools, 158,000 sanitary pads, 500 teacher's gowns, more than 85,000 exercise books for conflict-affected schools, and WASH construction projects at Menge Secondary School and Komoshiga Birhan Secondary School, including deep well drilling.

In short, the investment did more than support individual students—it transformed educational ecosystems and cultivated a generation of empowered young women.

**Capital: Beyond numbers, what does success look like for a girl in this program?**

**Wendwossen:** Success is most powerfully reflected in the personal transformation of girls who, once feeling invisible or confined by traditional expectations, now recognize themselves as leaders and agents of change. Participants in the U-GIRLS 2 program often describe a profound shift from fear and silence to confidence and agency. Through mentorship, leadership training, and peer support networks, these girls develop the courage to voice their opinions in class, pursue leadership roles in school, and advocate for their right to education within their families. Educators observe that students who previously hesitated to ask questions are now leading classroom discussions, mentoring younger peers, and actively participating in gender clubs that foster equality and mutual respect. Ultimately, success for these girls transcends university admission—it lies in discovering their voice and redefining what is possible for the next generation.

**Capital: How do interventions like “Positive Masculinity” and “Multi-Family Healing Spaces” dismantle barriers such as early marriage or gender-based violence?**

**Wendwossen:** These approaches address gender inequality at its roots by transforming relationships and power dynamics within families and communities. Positive Masculinity engages men and boys as allies by challenging harmful stereotypes through transformative techniques such as reverse role-play. This builds deep empathy, allowing men to experience firsthand the pressures girls and women face. As male leaders and family heads critically examine the socially constructed meanings attached to gender roles, they begin actively removing obstacles that block opportunities for their daughters and sisters, leading to immediate behavioral shifts and a strong commitment to advocating for gender equality. Multi-Family Healing Spaces operate through a structured four-part process that includes family healing sessions to

build empathy and address conflict; parent-only sessions to practice democratic and nurturing parenting; youth-only sessions to strengthen self-expression and life skills for children over twelve; and intergenerational spaces where the whole family gathers on equal footing to bridge gaps and plan futures together, with every voice heard.

These structured dialogues allow girls to share their aspirations directly with parents, while families gain a deeper understanding of the challenges girls face balancing domestic work and school. The result is a tangible reduction in domestic workloads, delayed discussions of early marriage, and strengthened family support for girls' continued education.

**Capital: How were “soft outcomes” such as confidence measured?**

**Wendwossen:** The project employed a robust mixed-methods evaluation approach, integrating quantitative surveys, comparison groups, and qualitative assessments. The results demonstrated measurable gains in personal development. Notably, 97.5% of participants reported enhanced confidence and leadership abilities. Furthermore, soft-skills scores showed significant improvement among intervention participants relative to those in non-intervention groups. These competencies directly contributed to educational advancement.

**Capital: What role did local partnerships play?**

**Wendwossen:** Local partnerships were absolutely central to the project's success. We worked closely with regional education bureaus, women's and social affairs bureaus, and all relevant sector offices, alongside school administrations, teachers, community leaders, Assosa University, and regional colleges. These collaborations ensured that all interventions were aligned with national policies and grounded in culturally relevant practices. Capacity-building interventions were designed and delivered collectively, based on jointly identified technical gaps.

Teacher training programs, for instance, were strengthened to incorporate gender-responsive pedagogy. Collaboration with government structures also ensured that strategies such as gender clubs, mentoring systems, and community dialogues were embedded within existing education systems, rather than functioning as temporary project activities.

The project recognized that lasting success requires active contribution from parents and the wider community. To this end, it built the capacity of Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTSAs), empowering them to take a leading role in promoting quality education and fostering an enabling teaching and learning environment. By facilitating stronger communication, collaboration, and innovation among stakeholders across the education ecosystem—from policymakers to practitioners—the project enabled locally owned interventions. This systemic engagement stands as one of the project's most remarkable achievements.

**Capital: What was the biggest operational challenge?**

**Wendwossen:** The most significant operational challenge was implementing the project within a fragile, conflict-affected environment, compounded by the simultaneous pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic instability. Frequent school closures, internal displacement, road blockages, and persistent security risks severely disrupted program activities and restricted access to affected communities. In response, the project adopted a highly adaptive management approach—adjusting timelines, integrating psychosocial support for displaced populations, and collaborating closely with local partners to ensure continuity of operations under extremely difficult circumstances.

**Capital: What is the project's exit strategy?**

**Wendwossen:** The project's exit strategy centered on deep institutionalization to ensure progress endures beyond its closure. Throughout implementation, U-GIRLS 2 introduced management innovations designed not as parallel systems, but as mechanisms to reinforce existing institutions, enhance efficiency, and secure long-term continuity. A key innovation was the strategic deployment of national volunteers—particularly female graduates—as school-based focal persons. These individuals served as vital liaisons between students, school leadership, and project teams, enabling consistent follow-up on attendance, academic performance, and protection concerns, while simultaneously building local capacity by providing young professionals with practical experience. Concurrently, the project deliberately shifted emphasis toward government capacity building by engaging technical advisors to train and mentor staff from regional bureaus, woreda education offices, and school leadership, thereby transferring expertise into permanent structures. To cement these gains, the project trained over 1,600 teachers in gender-responsive methods, established gender clubs and mentorship systems within schools, strengthened parental and community support networks, and successfully integrated its approaches into education bureau policies and school

management frameworks.

**Capital: What advice would you give to others seeking similar success?**

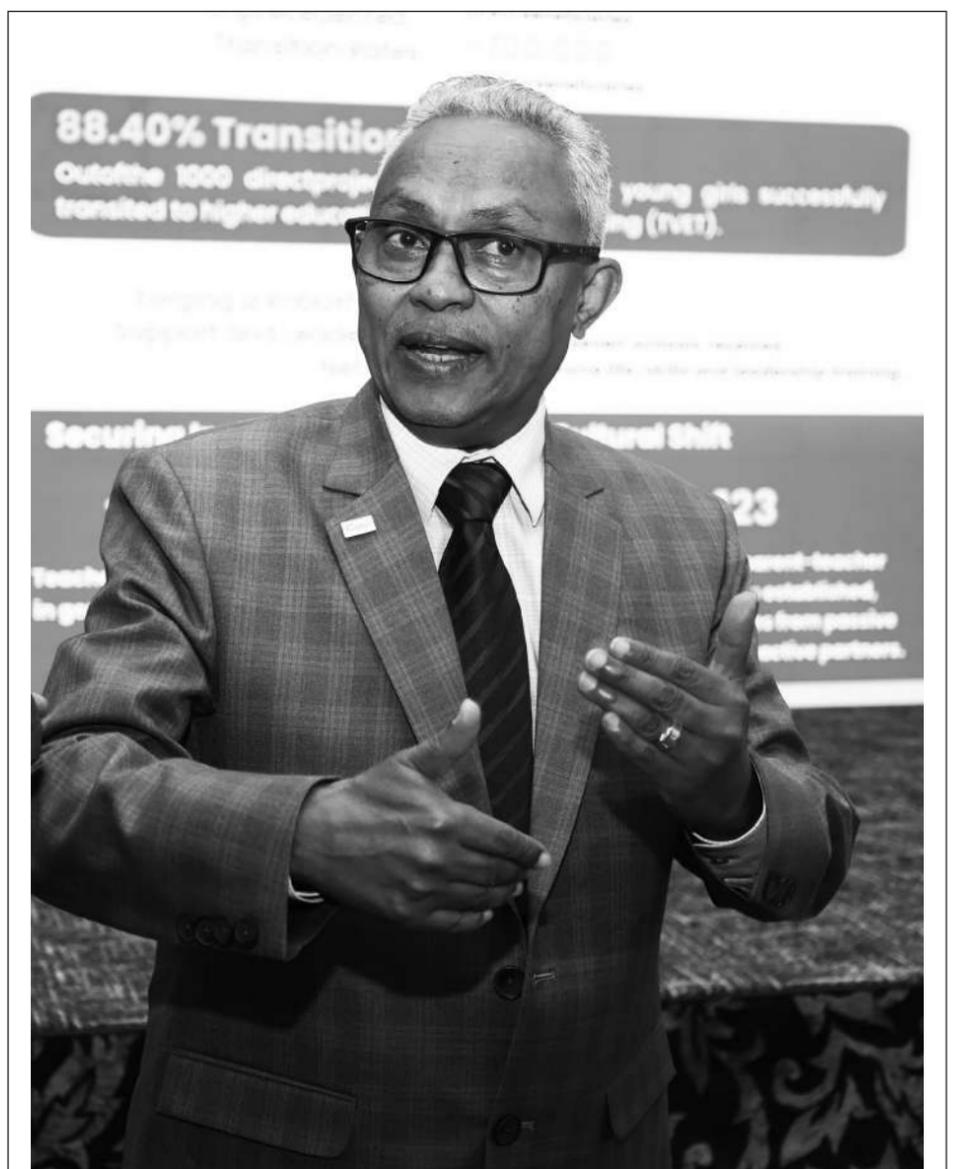
**Wendwossen:** Based on our experience, three key principles are essential. First, adopt a holistic approach that addresses academic, economic, social, and psychological barriers simultaneously. Second, actively engage families and communities, as sustainable change is driven when parents and local leaders become champions of girls' education. Third, invest in girls' leadership, as empowered young women have a ripple effect, influencing their peers, families, and entire communities. The success of U-GIRLS 2 demonstrates that integrating these elements can yield truly transformative results.

**Capital: What is the biggest threat to the progress made?**

**Wendwossen:** The greatest threat is the convergence of economic vulnerability, conflict, and persistent gender norms. These factors can quickly reverse educational gains when support systems weaken. Economic shocks often pressure families into resorting to early marriage or child labor, while insecurity disrupts schooling and restricts girls' mobility.

In this context, the international community has a crucial role to play. Sustaining progress requires continued investment in girls' education, strengthening education systems in fragile regions, and supporting programs that empower girls as leaders of development. While there are undoubtedly many competing global interests, education remains a key foundation for lasting progress, making it essential to strategically maintain the momentum we have built.

As the proverb reminds us, "When you educate a girl, you educate a nation." To achieve this, we must strengthen families, transform schools, and reshape socio-cultural norms across communities—a process that demands long-term, uninterrupted support. With the March 8, 2026, theme being "Give to Gain," my humble message to all is to keep giving in order to sustain our gains.



# Oil, War, And The Iran Factor

■ Alazar Kebede

There is an old saying in geopolitics: when oil flows smoothly, the world feels stable. When it doesn't, everything trembles, markets, governments, and ordinary lives. Today, the escalating confrontation involving Iran reminds us once again that energy is not just a commodity. It is power, leverage, and sometimes the spark for war.

The story of oil and conflict is not new. But the "Iran factor" sits at the center of a particularly volatile intersection where geography, economics, and politics collide. To understand why tensions around Iran send shockwaves through global markets and diplomatic corridors, one must look beyond headlines and see the deeper structure of the modern energy system.

Iran occupies one of the most strategically significant locations in the global energy map. Sitting along the Persian Gulf and overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, it controls the gateway through which roughly one-fifth of the world's seaborne oil supply passes. This narrow waterway is only a few dozen kilometers wide at its tightest point. Yet it carries oil shipments from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran itself. In essence, the industrial world's energy lifeline runs through a corridor shadowed by Iranian territory.

When tensions escalate in the region, the first reaction often appears in energy markets. Even the threat of disruption in the strait can push prices upward because traders fear supply shocks. In recent weeks, those fears have become tangible. Maritime traffic has dropped dramatically as military strikes and retaliatory threats raised risks for oil tankers navigating the region. For global markets, this is not just a regional crisis. It is a systemic vulnerability.

The effects of conflict ripple quickly through financial markets. Oil prices have already surged amid fears of disrupted supply, with crude rising sharply as the war intensified. Such spikes rarely stay confined to the

energy sector. Oil feeds directly into transportation, manufacturing, food production, and household energy bills. When prices jump, inflation often follows. Central banks and governments are already bracing for these consequences. European officials warn that a prolonged Middle Eastern war could push inflation higher and slow economic growth across the eurozone.

The United States has even considered intervening in oil futures markets to stabilize prices, an extraordinary step that reflects how deeply geopolitical conflicts now intertwine with financial systems. For ordinary people, these macroeconomic signals translate into something more immediate: higher gasoline prices, rising food costs, and growing uncertainty.

For Iran itself, oil is not just a strategic tool. It is the backbone of the national economy. Petroleum accounts for a large share of the country's export revenue, making it essential to government finances and social stability. Yet Iran's oil industry has long been constrained by sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies. These sanctions target everything from shipping insurance to banking transactions, making it difficult for Tehran to sell crude on the open market.

The result has been a shadow economy of oil trade. Iran has developed complex networks to bypass restrictions, including ship-to-ship transfers, rebranded cargoes, and discounted sales to buyers willing to operate outside Western financial systems. Much of this oil eventually ends up in Asia, particularly in China. While these arrangements allow Iran to maintain some revenue, they come at a cost of lower prices, higher logistical risks, and constant political tension. In effect, Iran's oil industry exists in a permanent state of geopolitical uncertainty.

Sanctions are designed to weaken Iran economically without direct military confrontation. By limiting oil exports and financial access, policymakers hope to pressure the government into changing its policies especially regarding nuclear development and regional influence.

But sanctions also reshape global energy markets. Removing Iranian oil from the international supply reduces available barrels, which can tighten markets and push prices upward. At the same time, other producers, particularly within OPEC, may adjust production to compensate for the missing supply. This delicate balancing act illustrates the paradox of energy geopolitics: actions intended to punish one country often reverberate through the entire global economy.

War introduces a far more dangerous dynamic. During earlier clashes, Iran's oil exports temporarily collapsed as infrastructure was damaged and tanker traffic slowed. The current conflict carries similar risks. Military strikes, drone attacks, or naval confrontations can damage refineries, pipelines, and ports. Even without physical destruction, fear alone can disrupt shipping routes. Insurance premiums for tankers surge. Shipping companies suspend operations. Oil buyers hesitate.

The result is a cascade effect across global energy supply chains. In extreme scenarios, analysts warn that a prolonged disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could send oil prices soaring far beyond current levels.

Behind the charts and statistics lies a human story. In Tehran, oil workers worry about jobs and wages as sanctions strain the economy. Families face rising prices and shrinking purchasing power. Economic isolation has already weakened Iran's currency

and eroded living standards for many households. Meanwhile, in distant cities like Berlin, Brussels, Tokyo, drivers watch fuel prices climb. Inflation squeezes budgets. Governments struggle to balance economic stability with geopolitical commitments. Energy conflicts often feel abstract, but their consequences are deeply personal. The price of a barrel of oil ultimately appears in grocery bills, heating costs, and transportation fares.

One of the enduring lessons of the Iran crisis is how deeply the world remains tied to fossil fuels. Despite rapid growth in renewable energy, oil continues to power global transportation networks and large segments of industrial production. Any disruption in supply quickly reverberates across the world economy. This dependence amplifies the geopolitical importance of regions like the Persian Gulf. As long as oil remains central to economic life, countries that produce or control its transit routes will hold significant strategic influence. Iran, by geography alone, will remain a pivotal actor in this system.

The Iran factor illustrates a broader truth about modern geopolitics: energy security and national security are inseparable. Wars are rarely fought solely over oil. But oil often shapes the strategic calculations behind them, determining alliances, economic pressures, and military decisions. For decades, the Persian Gulf has been a stage where these forces converge. Iran's position in that landscape ensures that any conflict involving the country carries global implications.

The immediate future remains uncertain. Diplomacy could ease tensions and restore energy flows. Or escalation could deepen disruptions, pushing oil prices higher and widening economic instability. What is certain is this: as long as oil remains the lifeblood of the global economy, conflicts around energy-producing regions will continue to influence world politics. The Iran crisis is not simply about one nation or one war. It is a reminder of how fragile the modern energy system can be and how quickly the politics of oil can shape the fate of millions.

*Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.*

## Ethiopian pays more for commodities

■ By Fanta Tadesse

### Why?

The existing infrastructure in Ethiopia requires significant improvement to effectively support logistics activities. The country's lack of direct access to a seaport imposes extremely high costs on the citizens. The price of a commodity is determined among others by logistics costs. In many countries, logistics costs are considered reasonable when they account for 5–15% of the total price of goods. However, this is not the case in Ethiopia.

Due to various structural and operational challenges, logistics costs in Ethiopia are exceptionally high. While some of these challenges have already been mentioned, there are additional underlying causes. On average, logistics costs in Ethiopia account for approximately 25–30% of the total product cost. Data shows, logistics expenses are estimated to be up to 60% higher than in neighboring countries.

### What Does Logistics Cost Include?

In this context, logistics costs refer specifically to expenses related to the movement, storage, and handling of goods.

Ethiopia incurs additional costs for services such as storage and handling goods at the Port of Djibouti. Unreliable infrastructure often results in delays. From a logistics perspective, time is critical. Failure to deliver goods on time increases the final price of commodities and, in extreme cases, may lead to product obsolescence.

Why Are Logistics Costs Higher in Ethiopia?

Several factors contribute to the high cost of logistics:

- Inefficiencies in logistics infrastructure and management
- Bureaucratic bottlenecks
- Under developed communication systems
- Heavy reliance on the Port of Djibouti
- Limited competitions in the sector

### Cost of Moving Goods

Transportation accounts for the largest share of logistics costs. At present, the cost of moving goods—whether by truck or train—appears disproportionately high. Operators often attribute these high costs to recent economic reforms, inadequate infrastructure, while customer complains for limited competition in the sector.

### Measures taken So Far

#### 1. Incentives for Investors

The sector is now open, at least in principle, to investors interested in participating in logistics-related activities. Regulations set by the Ministry of Transport and Logistics allow investors to engage in activities such as:

- Transit services
- Acquisition of duty-free transportation equipment
- Construction of dry ports
- Multimodal Operators

These measures aim to encourage private participation and create multiple strong players in the logistics sector, thereby reducing single-operator dominance.

### The Way Forward

Improving logistics requires a multidimensional approach and the involvement of various stakeholders.

#### 1. Infrastructure Development

Establishing a well-integrated transportation system is essential. In logistics, lead-time is a critical factor. Delivering goods on time is far more valuable than delivering them anyway. Therefore, improving transportation infrastructure and reducing bureaucratic delays are vital for meaningful transformation.

Ethiopia, despite lacking direct sea access, has around eight dry ports, many of which operate below capacity. In comparison, Egypt—with a population of approximately 120 million, slightly less than Ethiopia's estimated 135 million and with extensive sea access through the Red Sea and the Mediterranean—has plans to build 33 dry or inland ports. Expanding and efficiently utilizing dry ports in Ethiopia could strengthen the logistics chain, reduce congestion at seaports, and boost transit trade. Having enough dry ports, that can as a container refuge place, across the nation help to reduce cost of commodities by substantially reducing container demurrage.

#### 2. Smart Logistics

Modernizing the logistics system by adopting state-of-the-art technologies can significantly improve efficiency. This includes the introduction and utilization of digital infrastructure for communication, cargo tracking, fleet management, and real-time information sharing.

#### 3. Ecosystem Development

Modern logistics challenges require collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Building a coordinated ecosystem involving government agencies, private operators, financial institutions, and international partners would enhance integration and efficiency across the sector.

#### 4. Strong Diplomatic Engagement

Constructive and mutually beneficial diplomatic relationships are essential, particularly with neighboring countries involved in trade corridors. Unstable or unreliable interstate relations significantly increase logistics costs.

#### 5. Economic Strength

A weak economy limits investment in infrastructure and reduces a country's influencing power. Strengthening the broader economy is therefore fundamental to improving logistics performance.

#### 6. Responsiveness for logistics

Stronger integration among stakeholders can do more than improve operations—it can transform the entire sector. Recognizing the strategic importance of logistics is essential for national development.

#### 7. Leveraging Comparative Advantages

Ethiopia's geographical location, large population, and cultural ties across borders offer strong potential for regional influence. The country's natural resources position it as a key water source in the region, and in recent years it has also emerged as an energy supplier to neighboring countries. Effectively leveraging these advantages could strengthen its position in regional logistics and trade negotiations.

#### 8. Internal Conflict

Security challenges increase transportation risks and insurance costs. As a result, buyers ultimately pay higher prices for commodities due to delays and additional expenses caused by instability. On top of that informal tax collectors also another player in increasing cost of logistics.

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# Society

## Strives to create mental health awareness in full swing in Ethiopia

By Brook Genene (MD)

Mental illness is one of the most misunderstood diseases worldwide. The situation in Ethiopia is no different. There are harmful reasonings and stereotypes attached to mental health challenges that prevent people from seeking the necessary medical care.

Studies show that there has been an increase in mental health challenges in the country in recent years. Common mental disorders (including depression, anxiety, and related conditions) in the general population have been estimated around 21–22% in older meta-analyses (pre-2020), with higher rates (up to 36–40%) in post-COVID reviews or specific subgroups.

Depression prevalence has varied widely: from ~9% in analyses drawing on older national health survey data to 30–35% in targeted groups like students, hypertensive patients, or youth.

Recent studies (2020–2025) report figures such as 21% in Harari Region adults, 24.7% in Addis Ababa communities, or higher rates (40–60%) among vulnerable groups like prisoners, substance users, or those with chronic illnesses.

Anecdotal reports from clinicians, community observations, and findings from these smaller-scale studies consistently suggest a rising trend in mental health problems over recent years. Experts explain that this appears to be driven by multiple overlapping adverse psychosocial factors, including ongoing and recurrent conflicts and instability in various parts of the country, economic challenges — such as inflation, unemployment, poverty, and cost-of-living pressures and other stressors like displacement, food insecurity, migration, substance use, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The growing profession of Psychiatry in Ethiopia has tried to address this issue by offering a new book on mental health challenges, its meaning and causes in Amharic. The book was written by the Psychiatry department of Addis Ababa University.

“Professor Samuel Wolde—a clinical psychologist based in the US and one of the book's editors—discussed the idea of producing a book in Amharic with Professor Atalay Alem, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry at Addis Ababa University (AAU) and also an editor of the book. Professor Atalay then brought the proposal to me and Professor Mesfin Araya. We enthusiastically embraced the idea, and I was tasked with developing author guidelines and identifying suitable contributors for the various chapters. Contributors were carefully selected based on their expertise in relevant areas,” Professor Solomon Teferra, who is the leading editor of the book, told Geeska. Professor Solomon is an Addiction Psychiatry subspecialist.

He explained that before this initiative, Ethiopian mental health professionals

had made various efforts over the years to address this gap through mainstream media, social media, and other platforms. However, no comprehensive book in Amharic was readily available to the public, compiling reliable information on the topic. This unmet need motivated the project, which ultimately took nearly three years to complete.

There were more than 20 mental health professionals who were involved in preparation of the book which makes it unique. All the authors voluntarily contributed to the book and there were experts from junior to senior positions.

“For me, it was both an honor and a privilege to serve as one of the four editors and to contribute several chapters. My contributions focused on areas such as addiction, psychosis, and the history and development of mental health research in Ethiopia, among others,” Professor Solomon said.

Another participant in the book is Dr Azeb Asaminew who is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Addis Ababa University. She stated that her reason to be involved in the project is because academics have a responsibility to share the knowledge they have learned. “I believe that knowledge should not be hoarded. And in sharing it, the knowledge will need to be transformed based on our local experiences and realities. The way we speak about mental health issues needs to be interwoven with our social contextual fabrics.”

She further explained that the book, written in a widely spoken Ethiopian language (Amharic), makes the knowledge accessible to the wider public. “It contextualizes and gives the vocabulary to help us have deeper conversations about the topic. In addition to the accessibility of knowledge, it is my hope that it will help people ask more transformative questions about mental disorders, and the mental healthcare system,” she told Geeska. “I am extremely proud to be part of this project and I would like to appreciate Prof. Solomon Teferra and all other editors who are giants of the profession that we all look up to. It's a significant lifetime contribution,” she further added.

Professor Solomon explains that convincing more than 20 professionals to contribute to the project without any compensation was a tough task. In addition to that, translating technical Psychiatric terms to Amharic was also challenging. “In some cases, we retained the original English terms (or their established transliterations)—a prominent example being schizophrenia—to avoid ambiguity or loss of precise meaning,” he said.

Securing funding was also another

problematic aspect but the Federal Ministry of Health helped by enabling the department to print 10,000 copies which will be distributed to the public.

Professor Solomon states that over the past two decades, Ethiopia has made notable progress in raising mental health awareness and increasing service utilization. Mental health services have been increasingly integrated into general and primary health care, guided by the National Mental Health Strategy (initially launched in 2012/13–2015/16, with a subsequent strategy for 2020–2025). This integration emphasizes task-sharing, training of primary care workers, and expansion to health centers and community levels.

He states that the key improvements include expansion of the mental health workforce (e.g., more psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, and trained Health Extension Workers), better availability of essential psychotropic medications and a gradual shift in public attitudes toward mental health issues, with reduced stigma in some communities due to

awareness efforts.

He also underlies the importance of the establishment of the Ethiopian Mental Health Service Users Association. He states that this has played a vital role in combating stigma, amplifying the voices of people with lived experience, fostering community awareness, and advocating for improved rights and access to care.

“I firmly believe this book serves as an excellent foundation for raising public awareness about mental health in our society, where stigma, misinformation, and limited understanding have long been barriers to care,” Professor Solomon said.

The book is believed to benefit those in practice to prepare educational and awareness contents, helps people with illnesses learn more about the disease and also will enable those in the media to accurately report on the issue. As Ethiopia strives to create mental health awareness the book will go a long way in achieving that goal.

*Brook Genene (MD) is an Ethiopian physician and health journalist. He holds a medical degree and a fellowship in health communications, creating mental health content for YouTube and television.*

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### NATIONAL ALCOHOL & LIQUOR FACTORY

#### INVITATION BID

#### Advertisement Invitation for International competitive Bidding (ICB) Tender No.NALF 006/2026

1. National Alcohol & Liquor factory (NALF), a state-owned Enterprise supervised by Ethiopia Investment Holdings (EIH) invites all interested, eligible and qualified international ERP solution providers for the supply, implementation, configuration, integration, data migration, testing, go-live, and post-go-live support of fully integrated Enterprise Resource planning (ERP) system.
2. A complete set of bid document can be obtained against payment of non-refundable fee of Birr 700 /seven hundred / from the main cashier at Mekanissa head office.
3. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security birr 1,000,000 (one million birr) or equivalent (6,410 USD) in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit (counter-guaranteed by bank in Ethiopia if issued abroad) and CPO. The Bid security shall remain valid for at least 28 days beyond the bid validity period.
4. Bidder's requests for clarification may be submitted up to fifteen (15) days prior to the bid submission deadline.
5. Technical and financial bids must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes enclosed within one outer envelope clearly marked with the tender reference and addressed to NALF.
6. The bid bond will be sealed in separate envelope and marked bid bond.
7. The closing date is April 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM and the bid will be opened at the same date at 10:20 AM in the presence of the bidders or their legal representatives at Mekanissa head office 7th floor meeting hall No.710.
8. National Alcohol & Liquor factory reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

National Alcohol & Liquor Factory

P.O.Box:- 3516 Fax:- 0115-513299 Tel:- 0115-516999

Addis Ababa



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Feed the Future Ethiopia Transforming Agriculture (FTF-ETA) is inviting all eligible bidders to submit their detailed company profile, including their experience in producing similar machinery. We are seeking qualified manufacturing, importing, and wholesale companies with the necessary technical and financial capacity, and a valid business license for the current Ethiopian fiscal year (2017). Qualified bidders are invited to collect the

RFQ/RFP from the RTI International website at <https://www.rti.org/current-opportunities>.

<b>Commodity/Service Required:</b>	<b>Purchase of Milk Equipment</b>
Type of Procurement:	<b>Milk Cans: Aluminum of 10L Capacity Cream Separator: Stainless Steel Butter Churner Silcon Butter Mold - L9.5*W6.5*H3.8 cm Butter Packaging Machine</b>
Type of Contract:	One – time contract of fixed price
Term of Contract:	One Time
Contract Funding:	Department of State
This Procurement supports:	Department of State - Ethiopia Transforming Agriculture
Submit Proposal to:	<b>InkindProcurement.ETA@transforming-agriculture.org</b>
Date of Issue of RFP:	<b>March 8, 2026</b>
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	<b>March 12, 2026, at 16:00 East Africa Time (EAT)</b>
Date Response posted on RTI website:	<b>March 13, 2026, at 16:00 East Africa Time (EAT)</b>
Date Proposal Due:	<b>March 18, 2026</b>
Approximate Date Purchase Order Issued to Successful Bidder(s):	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Method of Submittal:</b>	
Respond via e-mail <b>InkindProcurement.ETA@transforming-agriculture.org</b> with attached document in MS Word/ Pdf format. Please provide digital brochures as deemed necessary to support your offer.	
Solicitation Number:	ETA-AA-24-027A-GRT-Mod3 and ETA-AA-26-013-GRT

**The RTI- FTFETA project reserves the right to reject any or all bids.**



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RFQ/RFP from the RTI International website at <https://www.rti.org/current-opportunities>.

<b>Commodity/Service Required:</b>	<b>Purchase of Silo and Conveyor Belt</b>	
Type of Procurement:	- Steel silo Ø7.3m×8c (1,000 Ton Capacity) - Steel silo Ø5.5m×9c (500 Ton Capacity) - Automatic movable feed conveyor belt With commissioning, testing, training, installation, transportation, loading, unloading and all necessary costs to <b>Somali Regional State, Jigjiga City Administration.</b>	1 pcs 3 pcs 1 pcs
Participation and Evaluation Methodology for Lots and Items	Bidders can submit partial bids for the items listed. Awards will be made based on compliance with technical specifications, other evaluation criteria, and the best-evaluated bid.	
Type of Contract:	One – time contract of fixed price	
Term of Contract:	One Time	
Contract Funding:	Department of State	
This Procurement supports:	Department of State- Ethiopia Transforming Agriculture	
Submit Proposal to:	<b>InkindProcurement.ETA@transforming-agriculture.org</b>	
Date of Issue of RFP:	<b>March 8, 2026</b>	
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	<b>March 10, 2026, at 17:30 East Africa Time (EAT)</b>	
Date Response Posted on RTI website:	<b>March 11, 2026, at 17:30 East Africa Time (EAT)</b>	
Date Proposal Due:	<b>March 13, 2026, at 17:30 East Africa Time (EAT)</b>	
Approximate Date Purchase Order Issued to Successful Bidder(s):	<b>TBD</b>	
<b>Method of Submittal:</b>		
Respond via e-mail <b>InkindProcurement.ETA@transforming-agriculture.org</b> with attached document in MS Word / Pdf format. Please provide digital brochures as deemed necessary to support your offer.		
Solicitation Number:	ETA-AA-25-037B-GRT	

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**SUPPLIER PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE 2026-2029**

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is a CGIAR research centre, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. ILRI is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, with a principal campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ILRI Ethiopia invites interested qualified, technically competent, and eligible International and Local vendors to submit their interest for the prequalification for years 2026-2029. Please note that ILRI Ethiopia will not accept any manual submissions, the supplier prequalification exercise will be conducted **online** via:



The TenderSure™ platform is secure, transparent and provides an efficient prequalification process. Interested suppliers may access and register on [www.tendersure.africa](http://www.tendersure.africa) under the "Available Jobs" tab and click on **ILRI Ethiopia Supplier Prequalification**. Access to the prequalification documents will be granted upon payment of a non-refundable fee per category inclusive of 15% VAT (Amount will vary per category). All payments will be made via an **online payment** on the platform. The online prequalification exercise closes on **March 27th, 2026, at 10PM EAT**.

Kindly note that TenderSure™ will host a training webinar on Tuesday **March 10th, 17th and 24th 2026, at 2:00 PM EAT (8 PM local time)** on how to register on the TenderSure™ platform. Interested suppliers can use the following details to attend the webinar on Google Meet. Join on your computer browser, mobile app, meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/odh-hqoi-usm>

Should you require any assistance, kindly contact us at [clearskies@tendersure.africa](mailto:clearskies@tendersure.africa) or **+251 955 210 999** by **Phone, Telegram or WhatsApp**.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	
<b>GENERAL</b>	
1	Supply of Office Stationery, Toners and Computer Consumables (cartridges, ribbons)
2	Supply of Office Furniture, Beds, Side Tables, Lamps, Fittings & Furnishing (Curtains, Blinds & Carpets)
3	Supply and Delivery of Corporate Uniforms, Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, Masks, Coveralls, Gowns, Crocs, Gloves, Cold Room Suits, Cryogenic PPE
4	Provision of Design and Printing Services for Branded Corporate Promotional Material
5	Supply of Electronics/ Home Appliances (TVs, Fridges, Microwaves, Water Dispensers)
6	Provision of Language Translation, Interpretation and Localization Services (French, Spanish, Germany etc.)
7	Provision of Signwriting, Graphics, Digital Signage, and Digital screens
8	Supply of Cleaning, Dry Hygiene Chemicals and Sanitary Waste Products (Cleaning Agents, Detergents, Sanitizers, Soap Dispensers, Hand Paper Towel Dispensers, Swimming Pool Supplies,)
<b>RESEARCH COMPLIANCE</b>	
9	Provision of Air Quality Monitoring Services
10	Provision and Analysis of Fresh Water, Waste water and Soil Sampling
11	Provision of Waste Collection Services (Office Waste, Glass, Metal, Laboratory, Animal Research Waste Etc)
12	Provision of Occupational Health and Medical Surveillance Services
13	Provision of Statutory Compliance Audits (Environment, Health and Safety and Fire External Audits)
14	Provision of Calibration of Radiation Meters, Radiation Safety Audits, Monitoring and Survey Services
<b>RESEARCH AND INNOVATION</b>	
15	Supply of Specialized Veterinary Products, Reagents and Related Equipment (Thermometers, Surgical Equipment)
16	Supply and Maintenance of Agricultural/Farm Machinery (Tractors, Loaders, Dumpers etc)
17	Supply of Veterinary and Agro Vet Farm Inputs and Supplies
18	Supply and Delivery of Animal Feeds, Chicken Feeds and Supplements
19	Supply and maintenance of incubators
20	Supply and Delivery of equipment for chicks and poultry tools (litter/bedding, feeder, drinker, brooders, laying nest, plastic egg tray, crate, knapsack spray, etc)
21	Supply and delivery of Hatcheries and Day-Old Chick (DOC) Suppliers, breeder/parent stock farms, commercial farms (who sell live birds), poultry agents/traders (distribute chicks)
<b>RESEARCH LABORATORY</b>	
22	Supply of Laboratory Specialized Tests (Histology, Sequencing, Electronic Microscopy, Spectrometry, Soil Analysis)
23	Supply of Laboratory Reagents For (Biochemistry and Nutrition, Hematology, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Gene Editing, Sequencing, Cell Culture, Serology, Reproductive Technologies and Imaging)
24	Supply of Specialized Lab Consumables (Soil, Manure, Water Sampling, Experiments Samples, Cells, Primers, Probes)
25	Supply of Laboratory Specialized Gases (Nitrogen, Oxygen, Argon, Helium, Synthetic Air, Acetylene) and Accessories
26	Supply of Servers and Data Center Equipment
27	Provision of ICT Servers Support, Network Infrastructure Equipment, and Maintenance Services (Switches, Routers, Firewalls, Wireless Solutions)
28	Provision of Enterprise Storage Systems
29	Provision of End-User Computing Equipment (Desktops, Laptops, Tablets, Printers, Scanners, Mobile Devices, Peripherals, Accessories)
30	Provision and support of PBX services (hardware, software and support)
31	Provision, Servicing and Preventive Maintenance of Network Infrastructure Equipment (Switches, Routers, Firewalls, Wireless Solutions)
32	Provision of Structured Cabling and Fiber Connectivity Services (hardware and installation services)
33	Provision of Network Infrastructure Security, IT Endpoint Security Solutions (E.G Antivirus, Anti-Malware)
34	Provision of Consultancy on ICT Infrastructure Services (Network, Audio-Visual, Security, etc.)
35	Provision of ICT Consultancy, Strategy Advisory and Professional Services (IT Audit & Compliance Service)
36	Provision of Business Continuity, Data Backup, and Disaster Recovery Solutions
37	Supply of UPS, Maintenance and Repairs, Supply of Ups Batteries, PDU, ATS, Voltage stabilizer etc
38	Provision of Web Hosting, Website development, App Development, and Domain Management Services (SSL Certificates and Website Security Solutions)
<b>ENGINEERING (FACILITIES SECTION)</b>	
39	Provision of Specialized Carpentry, Joinery and Furniture repairs, Wooden floor maintenance and items
40	Supply and Maintenance of Greenhouse and Screen house (automation, HVAC)
41	Provision of Fire protection system and Fire Fighting Equipment (supply and maintenance)
42	Water quality testing, Sewage quality testing and Treatment Works
43	Provision of Roof Specialist (Maintenance)
44	Provision of Painting, Road Marking (Maintenance)
<b>ENGINEERING-CONSULTANCY</b>	

45	Provision of Civil and Structural Engineering Consultancy, Architectural and Interior consultancy
46	Provision of Environmental Impact Assessment Services
47	Provision of Quantity Surveying Consultancy
<b>ENGINEERING-CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTORS</b>	
48	Provision of Water Resource Engineering and related
49	Contractors (borehole drilling and rehab, water related contractors, road contractors)
50	Provision of Major Building works- (construction, building and renovation) >40,000 USD
51	Provision of Minor Building works- (construction, building and renovation) <40,000 USD
<b>MECHANICAL AND REFRIGERATION</b>	
52	Provision of Mechanical Works Including Plumbing, Drainage, Piping and Other Associated Works
53	Provision of Central Heating, Centralized Hot Water Generation, Including Solar Water heating
54	Provision of Compressed Air, Gas and Vacuum Installations Services
55	Provision of Supply, Installation and Maintenance of HVAC and Mechanical Ventilation, Refrigeration, Cold Rooms and Clean Rooms Services
56	Provision of Supply Installation and Maintenance of Kitchen Equipment, LPG and Related Works
57	Provision of Septic Exhaustion Services
58	Provision of Steel Fabrication and Sheet Metal Works, Stainless MS and Others (installation of steel structures (solar panel holders, animal sheds, sails, canopies)
59	Supply Installation and Maintenance of Water Pumps & Equipment
<b>MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE</b>	
60	Maintenance of HVAC systems servicing, Cold rooms and Kitchen Equipment
61	Maintenance of Pumps, Plumbing systems and Generators
<b>ENGINEERING - ELECTRIC</b>	
62	Supply, Maintenance and Installation Services for Integrated Security Systems Incorporating CCTV Management, Access Control, Electric Fencing & Fire Alarm Detection
63	Supply and Installation Services of Generators, Remote Sensing (for energy related equipment)
64	Supply of Electronics Measuring Tools and Equipment (Meters, Thermometers)
65	Provision of Repair and Maintenance of Both Domestic and Industrial Laundry Equipment
66	Provision of Calibration & Certification of Centrifuges Equipment (Centrifuges, Biosafety Cabinets, Pipettes, Weighing Scales & Balances, and Level 3 Laboratory Equipment and Other Measuring Devices)
67	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of General Electrical and Related Works (Power cables, Distribution boards, Light Systems, Controllers etc.)
68	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Motors, Transformers Rewinding and Retrofit Works
69	Supply, Installation and Service of Switch Gear Equipment, Controls and Related Services
70	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar Systems
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	
71	Provision of Event Management (Conference Event, including conference equipment, Corporate Tents/ Outdoor Set Ups)
72	Hire of Corporate DJ's and Sound
73	Provision of kid's events management and equipment (birthdays, MC, holiday parties, bouncing castle and related items)
74	Supply of Toiletries and Consumables: Hotel linen, Towels, Soaps etc. (Hotel Standard)
75	Supply of Kitchen Equipment: Crockery and Cutlery (Hotel Standard)
76	Provision of External Hotel Accommodation Services
77	Provision of Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Services
78	Provision of Catering Services
79	Supply of Grocery Items (Roasted and Ground Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Spices, Milk Powder, Dairy Products, etc.)
80	Supply of Soft drinks and Bottled Waters
81	Supply of Alcoholic beverages (beer, wine)
82	Supply of Fresh fruits, vegetables, tubers and herbs
83	Supply of Ethiopian traditional ingredients (Spices, Ghee)
84	Supply of Meat, fish, chicken products, Seafood and dairy products
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	
85	Provision of HR Consultancy and Advisory Professional Services
86	Provision of staff learning, training and development services (Leadership and management development, First Aid, Fire Safety, Coaching, Professional and Personal Effectives e.g Customer Service, Staff well-being, Compliance or regulatory), team building services
87	Provision of Staff rehabilitation programs/counselling (Group Counselling, Family, Drug and Abuse) - in collaboration with EOHS
88	Provision of Professionals and Management of Casual Labor Services
89	Provision of Medical Services and Ambulance
<b>COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT</b>	
90	Provision of Strategic Communications & Campaigns (Media Outreach, Strategic Communications, Branding Campaign Design and Implementation, Advocacy, Engagement, Social Marketing, Behaviors, Change Campaigns, etc.)
91	Provision of Content Development & Creative Production (publishing, editing, writing, infographics. Multi-media, photography, video production, storytelling, communications)
92	Provision of Digital Communications & Marketing (Social Media Strategy, Content Development, Social Media Cards and Messaging)
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED</b>	
93	Supply, Delivery, Installation and Alignment of Motor Vehicle Tyres and Tubes (BF Goodrich, Bridgestone, Jetgrip, Maxxis, Goodyear)
94	Supply of Motor Vehicle Batteries (Chloride, Amaron)
95	Provision of Air Ticketing and Travel Agency Services (Must Be Registered with IATA)
96	Provision of Corporate Car Hire Services for Fieldwork (4x4 vehicles, Rugged SUVs, Minibuses and vans)
97	Provision of Import / Export Clearing, Forwarding and Handling Services

**N.B.**

- Existing suppliers are required to participate alongside prospective suppliers to be evaluated and considered for future business. All participants who complete the prequalification process online will be notified of the outcome via email. Participation of the supplier's prequalification is not a guarantee for business.
- ILRI reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in whole or part at its discretion.

# POWERING THE FUTURE: ETHIO-RUSSIA NUCLEAR PARTNERSHIP

By Moges Mekonnen

In a world where alliances shift like desert sands, global interests clash, and technology often defines power, Ethiopia's relationship with the Russian Federation stands out as an enduring constant. While nations frequently pivot toward short-term partnerships, Ethiopia and Russia have built a collaboration that spans more than a century - rooted in mutual respect, strategic support, and a shared commitment to sovereignty. What began as technical assistance and diplomatic solidarity has now evolved into one of the most ambitious frontiers of modern science i.e nuclear energy.

As Ethiopia charts its path toward the transformative Vision 2063, the roadmap for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation, Rosatom, signifies far more than a conventional energy deal. It is a powerful statement of technological ambition, a bold assertion of strategic autonomy, and a declaration of Ethiopia's emerging role as a continental leader in high-tech innovation.

By combining centuries of trust with cutting-edge science, this partnership is poised to reshape Ethiopia's industrial landscape, secure its energy future and serve as a model of forward-looking diplomacy in Africa.

## A Century of Collaboration: A Foundation of Trust and Progress

Ethiopia and Russia share a history that transcends mere diplomacy. Over the past century, Moscow has repeatedly supported Ethiopia in times of strategic need, from engineering the Melka Wakena Hydropower Plant to advocating for Ethiopia's sovereignty in the halls of the UN Security Council.

This century-long bond is defined by mutual respect and resilience. Russia has consistently championed African-led solutions to regional challenges, ensuring Ethiopia could pursue development without undue external interference.

The nuclear partnership is a natural continuation of this legacy - a collaboration rooted in trust, historical solidarity, and a shared vision for the future. It reflects a relationship that evolves with the times: from the monumental task of building dams to the sophisticated development of atomic energy. Truly, it is a journey from water to atoms.

Through this partnership, Ethiopia is asserting its rightful place among technologically capable nations, demonstrating that long-term collaboration can translate into transformative industrial and scientific progress.

## Strategic Necessity: Nuclear Power for a Modern Industrial Ethiopia

Hydropower, despite its majesty and scale, is inherently tied to the rhythms of nature. Droughts, seasonal variations, and river flow fluctuations limit its reliability for a nation seeking to industrialize rapidly. Nuclear energy offers a critical solution: base load power that never falters, never sleeps, and never depends on rain.

By deploying Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and VVER-1200 units - a Russian-designed Water-Water Energetic Reactor (Vodo-Vodyanoi Energetichesky Reaktor) that produces 1,200 megawatts of reliable, continuous electricity - Ethiopia is securing a stable, high-capacity energy source for its industrial future.

These reactors are engineered with advanced safety systems and can operate around the clock, providing the consistent power needed for industrial zones, green hydrogen production, and advanced manufacturing. This is not just energy for homes and lights; it is the backbone of Ethiopia's economic transformation, supplying the constant electricity required to drive a modern, industrial economy.

Strategically, nuclear power allows Ethiopia to move from energy vulnerability to energy sovereignty. It ensures that industrialization, healthcare, agriculture, and high-tech research can grow simultaneously, without interruption. In short, nuclear energy is the keystone of Ethiopia's ambition to become a technologically advanced, climate-resilient industrial powerhouse.

## A Partnership beyond Politics

The Ethio-Russian nuclear partnership illustrates how diplomacy and technology can intersect to serve national goals. Beyond infrastructure, this

relationship is a testament to mutual respect, strategic alignment, and long-term vision. Russia shares advanced nuclear technology not with a passive recipient but with a partner capable of managing and applying it responsibly.

Ethiopia's engagement with Russia extends beyond energy cooperation. For decades, Russia has been a consistent ally in global diplomacy, providing critical support for Ethiopia in the UN Security Council and other multilateral forums. Whether defending Ethiopia's sovereign rights during complex negotiations over the GERD or advocating for African-led solutions to regional challenges, Russia's diplomatic backing has helped Ethiopia navigate international pressures while asserting its national interests.

For Ethiopia, this partnership is both a diplomatic and scientific victory. It demonstrates the country's ability to negotiate global partnerships while maintaining sovereignty and to absorb cutting-edge knowledge to build domestic technical capacity. The collaboration sends a clear message to the world: Ethiopia will define its own development path, blending diplomacy and technology to secure its energy, industrial, and social future, while standing confidently in global decision-making arenas.

## Ethiopia's Atomic Era: A New Dawn

The launch of nuclear energy marks a historic turning point for Ethiopia. From the turbines of the Melka Wakena Hydropower Plant to the promise of atomic power, the country is entering a new era in which nuclear energy will complement hydropower to sustain industrial growth and social development.

Nuclear energy promises more than megawatts; it symbolizes resilience, technological advancement, and strategic independence. Through the Ethiopian Nuclear Energy Agency, the country will train a new generation of scientists, produce life-saving medical isotopes, strengthen crop resilience, and expand industrial capacity.

This atomic era embodies hope: the hope of an Ethiopia that is self-reliant yet globally connected, technologically ambitious yet socially inclusive, and industrially powerful yet environmentally responsible. It is a new horizon where energy security becomes the engine of national and regional prosperity.

## Hydropower and Nuclear: Twin Pillars of Industrialization

The GERD, together with other hydropower plants and the planned nuclear reactors, forms complementary pillars of Ethiopia's energy architecture. Hydropower supplies large volumes of renewable electricity for households, industries, and regional export, while nuclear energy provides high-tech stability and a constant base load supply essential for sustained industrial growth.

This dual system ensures that Ethiopia's industrialization is resilient to climate variability, seasonal water fluctuations, and geopolitical pressures. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) can be built close to industrial zones, minimizing transmission losses, while hydropower supplies the large-scale energy needed for national electrification and regional trade. Together, they create a climate-resilient, sovereignty-safe energy backbone capable of powering Ethiopia's 21st century industrial economy.

The combined power of water and atom transforms Ethiopia's narrative from one of energy scarcity to one of strategic abundance, positioning the nation as a hub of innovation, industrial growth, and continental leadership.

*Moges Mekonnen is a seasoned media expert with over 25 years of experience, including 18 years at the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) as a senior editor, investigative journalist, and program host. Currently the Corporate Communication Director and Spokesperson for Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), he leverages his deep editorial background to lead the narrative on Ethiopia's energy sovereignty.*

*Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.*

## Entrepreneur PROFILE:

### RESUME

**Name:** Sofonias Tekle Debela

**Education:** : B.Sc. in Automotive Engineering

**Company name:** : King EV Auto Solution PLC

**Title:** Managing Director and Founder

**Founded in:** 2016

**What it does:** : EV maintenance, battery servicing, diagnostics, spare parts supply, and high-tech ICE vehicle repair.

**Hq:** AAddis Ababa, Bole Sub-city

**Number of Employees:** : 21



### STARTUP CAPITAL

150,000 birr

### CURRENT CAPITAL

300,000 birr

### BIG PICTURE

**Reason for starting the Business:** To fill the specialized skill gap in Ethiopia's shift from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electric vehicles (EV).

**Biggest perk of ownership:** A well-organized EV and ICE maintenance center featuring certified experts and high-tech diagnostic equipment.

**Biggest strength:** Specialized and Certified Technicians, Performing Higher Value Service, Owning Modern Diagnostic Technology

**Biggest challenge:** Low customer awareness, spare part availability, and limited access to manufacturer programs.

**Plan:** Triple maintenance capacity (to 1,500 EVs annually), establish charging stations, and launch mobile repair services

### PERSONAL

**First career:** Chief Technician in Jonny Auto-Service

**Most interested in meeting:** Diagnos Dan

**Most admired person:** Henry Ford

**Stress reducer:** Praying

**Favorite pastime:** Enjoying with Family

**Favorite book:** The Holy Bible

**Favorite destination:** Isreal

**Favorite automobile:** Range Rover

## DAILY EXCHANGE RATE

Mar. 06, 2026

የገንዘብ አገልግሎት  
Wegagen Bank

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	153.57	156.64
POUND STERLING	205.20	209.30
EURO	178.32	181.89
SWISS FRANK	196.72	200.65
SWEDISH KRONER	16.66	16.99
CHINESE YUAN	22.23	22.68
UAE DIRHAM	41.81	42.65
JAPANIS YEN	0.96	0.98



ወጋገን ባንክ  
Wegagen Bank



# እንኳን ለዓለም አቀፍ የሴቶች ቀን አደረሳችሁ

ወጋገን ባንክ የሴቶችን ተጠቃሚነት ለማሳደግ ባዘጋጀው ከፍተኛ ወለድ የሚታሰብለት “ንጋት የሴቶች የቁጠባ ሂሳብ” ዛሬ ስትቆጥቧ ፤ ነገ ያቀድሽውን ታሳኪያለሽ!

እንዲሁም ባንካችን በዘቅተኛ ወለድ ለሴቶች ለንግድ ማስፋፊያ ያቀረበውን እጩታ ዕድገት የዲጂታል ብድር አገልግሎት በመጠቀም ሥራሽን ማሳደግ ትችያለሽ።



የደንበኞች ግንኙነት ማዕከል



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## CALL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE

### For The Update Of Human Resource, Finance And Procurement Manuals And Development Of Strategic Plan, Marketing Strategy, And Feasibility Study For Bere Sericulture Production Plc

Bere Sericulture Production Plc. is located in Arbaminch Town. And engaged in silk and of handmade Ethiopian finished silk products.

Bere Sericulture Production Plc. Wishes to recruit a qualified consultant to update the company's existing three manuals, for the year **2026-2030**

1. Human Resource Manuals
2. Finance and Procurement Manuals and
3. Development of two key Strategic plans: Marketing and Sales Strategies that include organizing training for staffs to help understand the manuals

#### Criteria

Bidders must present copy of legal documents; valid registration, renewed business license, VAT registration and TIN certificate.

Interested bidders must submit their technical and financial proposals within 7 days of this announcement in a sealed envelope. Detailed TOR documents are available from our office located in Arbaminch town. Bidders can also send a request via our email: [beresericulture@gmail.com](mailto:beresericulture@gmail.com). For any iadditional information, call us on our telephone number **+251 921 50 2271**

The bid will open in the presence of bidders and/or their legal representatives. The Company has the right to cancel the bid partially or fully.



SANDFORD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

### Admission of National Students for Nursery, Reception, and Year 1 Classes (2026–2027 Academic Year)

Sandford International School would like to invite interested Ethiopian parents or legal guardians to apply for admission of their children to available places in the Nursery, Reception, and Year 1 classes for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Since the number of applicants is expected to exceed the available places, candidates will be selected for testing through a lottery draw. The draw will take place on one of the following dates: **March 24, March 25, or March 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.** in the school auditorium.

Parents of successful applicants will be notified and required to complete all admission requirements within a specified period. Applicants who fail to complete the requirements, including payment, within the given timeframe may lose their admission place.

To apply for admission, parents or guardians must collect and complete an application form from the School's Admission Office. A non-refundable admission fee of **2,000 ETB** (two thousand Ethiopian Birr) must be paid at the Finance Office. Completed application forms along with the required supporting documents must be submitted to the Admission Office no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026**. Please note that applications will not be accepted after this deadline.

#### Year Group Entry Requirements (2026–2027):

- **Nursery:** Children born on or before August 31, 2023 (3 years old by August 31, 2026).
- **Reception:** Children born on or before August 31, 2022 (4 years old by August 31, 2026).
- **Year 1:** Children born on or before August 31, 2021 (5 years old by August 31, 2026).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Admissions Office:

- **Telephone:** +251 11 123 38 92 / +251 11 867 7694
- **Email:** [admission@sandfordschool.org](mailto:admission@sandfordschool.org)
- **Website:** [www.sandfordschool.org](http://www.sandfordschool.org)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The School Admissions Team  
Sandford International School



## INVITATION FOR BID

### DOUBLE CABIN PICK UP VEHICLE PURCHASE

Bere Sericulture Production Plc. would like to purchase a Double Cabin Pick Up vehicle. The vehicle specification and bidders requirements are presented below

S/N	Description	Specification
1	Make	Double cabin pickup, 4 Doors, 4WD, Diesel or Electric with Power windows
2	Model/Manufacture Year	Latest model (2022-2025)
3	No. of Cylinders	4
4	Capacity	5-seater
5	Tire Size	Standard
6	Fuel Type	Diesel/electric
7	Fuel Tank Capacity	Standard
8	Color	Silver
9	Airbags	Driver & Front passenger
10	Recommended Accessories	Air Conditioner, Radio, Stereo, Touch Screen Display are recommended accessories
11	Fuel Tank	80Lts
12	Optional	Put Lockable box at the back to transport small items

#### Bidders must present

1. Renewed license
2. Registration Certificate
3. TIN certificate
4. VAT certificate
5. Import license
6. Tax clearance

Bidders should be able to supply the vehicle within two weeks period.

Interested bidders should submit their price offer within 7 consecutive working days of this announcement in a sealed envelope. Bidders could get our application form by sending their request to email address [beresericulture@gmail.com](mailto:beresericulture@gmail.com) For more information, call us on **+251 977 07 8515** or from our office. The bid will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their legal representatives at our office located in Arbaminch town. The Company reserves the right to cancel the bid fully or partially.

## SPIRALYTIX

Sub-City Kirkos, Woreda 02, House No. 098  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
[www.spiralytix.com](http://www.spiralytix.com) / [info@spiralytix.com](mailto:info@spiralytix.com)

### BRAND NEW LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Item Description	Qty
ROTORHEAD FOR C24 PLUS-12 X 15ml ANGLE HEAD-MODEL:R-244M	1
ELECTRIC BUNSEN BURNER WITH BUILTIN REGULATOR-350WATTS	1
SS MEMBRANE FILTER HOLDER-47mm DIAMETER	1
REMI 3 KVA SERVO STABILISER-MODEL VS-03	1
REMI PLUS CYCLO MIXER MODEL CM:-101PLUS	1
SIPLAB VACUUM PUMP AND ACCESSORIES	1
IMPORTED MEMBRANE FILTER PAPER-0.45 MICRON	1
SIPLAB DIGITAL WATER BATH-FULLY SS WITH 2 ROWS, 6 HOLES	1
IMPORTED MEMBRANE FILTER PAPER-0.22 MICRON	1
REMI PLUS LOW VOLUME HIGH SPEED REFRIGERATED CENTRIFUGE-MODEL:C-24 PLUS	1
SHIMADZU UV-VISIBLE SPECTROPHOTOMETER-MODEL:UV-19001	1
MULTISYN SQUARE AUTOCLAVE-55 LITRES	1
MULTISYN SQUARE AUTOCLAVE-180 LITRES	1
BINDER CO2 INCUBATOR-MODEL:CBS170	1
ALPHA LINEAR HORIZONTAL LAMINAR AIRFLOW-2422-H	1
ALPHA LINEAR BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET-CLASS II, TYPE A2	1

**Please note:** Our current inventory featur only one unit per item

**Contact:** 0930199157

[gedion@gmail.com](mailto:gedion@gmail.com)



# UNFPA TO HOST 'KIBIR' FILM FESTIVAL AT VIDEO BET MARKING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By Staff Reporter

In connection with International Women's Day 2026, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is hosting a special film festival centered on the theme of dignity.

The event, titled "Kibir" (ክብር)—meaning honor or dignity—is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at Video Bet Cinema, located next to the Red Terror Martyrs' Memorial Museum near Meskel Square.

Organizers say the festival aims to highlight human dignity as a cornerstone for advancing women's rights, agency, and freedom of choice in all areas of life. The theme aligns with this year's global International Women's Day call to action: "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."

The evening will feature screenings of two acclaimed Ethiopian films, although the titles have not yet been disclosed by organizers. According to UNFPA, the selected works focus on local stories that explore themes of respect, empowerment, and the pursuit of justice.

The event is expected to attract a high-profile audience, including ambassadors, senior government officials, development partners, and representatives from the diplomatic community. Officials from UNFPA will attend alongside filmmakers and creative teams involved in the featured productions.

The festival is hosted at Video Bet, a recently established independent cinema that has quickly gained attention in Addis Ababa's cultural scene. The venue focuses on showcasing

**ክብር**  
**KIBIR SPEAKERS**  
International Women's Day Film Festival

**Samuel Teshager (Ye Emaye Lij)**  
Founder of Kelem Films, Producer, Screenwriter & Director

**Bethelihem Birhane (LALA)**  
Co-Founder of Kelem Films, Assistant Director, Screenwriter, Producer & Field Researcher

**Zeresenay Berhane Mehari (Zee)**  
Award-winning writer and director and founder of Halle-Addis pictures

**Justice Meaza Ashenafi**  
Founder and first Executive Director of the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)

8th of March, 2026  
at Videobet Cinema  
RSVP to Attend

UNFPA Canada aecid Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Sweden Sverige

internationally recognized and artistically driven films that often fall outside mainstream commercial cinema programming.

Video Bet was launched in early 2025 by filmmaker Beza Hailu and film critic Bandamlak Yimenu, who initially began organizing bi-monthly curated screenings at a local multiplex before establishing the dedicated venue.

Over the past year, the cinema has hosted a range of curated screenings highlighting Ethiopian and international independent films. Among its early highlights was

the Ethiopian premiere of Alazar (2024), a short film by Beza Hailu that debuted at the Cannes Film Festival and served as Video Bet's inaugural screening.

The venue has also organized special homecoming screenings for acclaimed Ethiopian documentaries including Faya Dayi (2021) by Jessica Beshir and Finding Sally (2020) by Tamara Mariam Dawit.

By hosting the "Kibir" festival, organizers say they hope to combine film and public dialogue to highlight the importance of dignity and rights for women and girls in Ethiopia and beyond.



## H O T M U S I C T A B L E

HOTTEST ARTISTS

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 4, 2026

HOTTEST TRACKS

RANK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Ejigayehu Shibabaw (GiGi)	370	203	573
2	Tewodros "Teddy Afro" Kassahun	218	128	346
3	Neway Debebe	108	7	115
4	Tilahun Gessesse	54	60	114
4	Rophnan	79	35	114
5	Rahel Getu	59	33	92
6	Dawit Tsige	68	21	89
7	Esubalew Yitayew	54	22	76
8	Lij Michael	28	40	68
9	Mesay Tefera	38	14	52

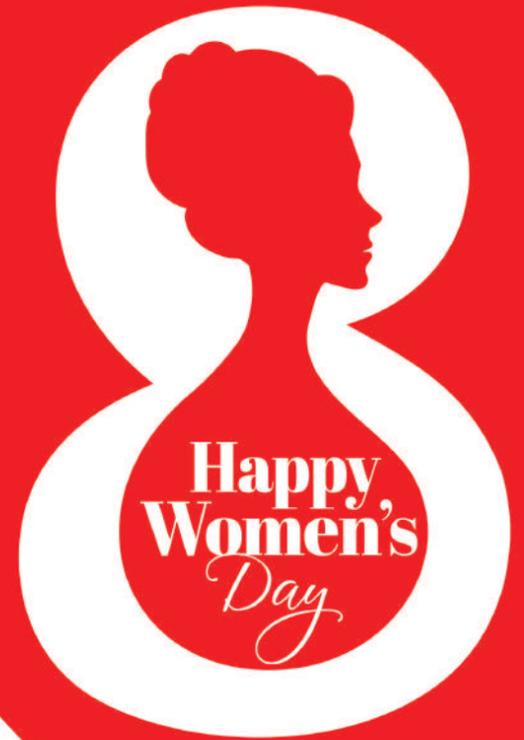
RANK	TRACK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Adwa	Ejigayehu Shibabaw (GiGi)	350	197	547
2	Tikur Sew	Tewodros "Teddy Afro" Kassahun	193	124	317
3	Kome Limerkish	Tilahun Gessesse	54	60	114
4	Ethiopiaye	Rahel Getu	48	32	80
5	Heyaw Sem	Esubalew Yitayew	53	22	75
6	Sekela	Rophnan	62	12	74
7	Yeshi	Lij Michael	23	40	63
8	Alebeltem	Neway Debebe	36	2	38
9	Hagere Nat Habte	Neway Debebe	37	0	37
10	Demama	Dawit Tsige	21	13	34
10	Salanesashe	Micky Gonderegna	6	28	34

THIS DATA IS GATHERED BY A 24/7 AUTOMATED RECORDING & ANALYZING ALL SYSTEM FROM 35 TV & RADIO STATIONS. THERE WERE MORE THAN 8,509 TOTAL MUSIC PLAYS ACROSS THE BROADCAST MEDIUM FOR THIS WEEK.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY - OMNIMEDIA ETHIOPIA



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 marketing@steelyrmiplc.com

- **Sales Office Phone:** +251 911 23 77 54
- **Website:** www.steelyrmiplc.com
- **P.O.Box:** 10742, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **Head Office:** Addis Ababa, Gurd Shola, Century Mall



**መልካም የሴቶች ቀን**

**Aster Solomon**  
Enat Bank Board Chairperson

## SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING COMPANY

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- ✓ Office Relocation
- ✓ Delivery and Unpacking Services
- ✓ Local Household Goods Moving
- ✓ Global Household Relocation
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STORAGE**

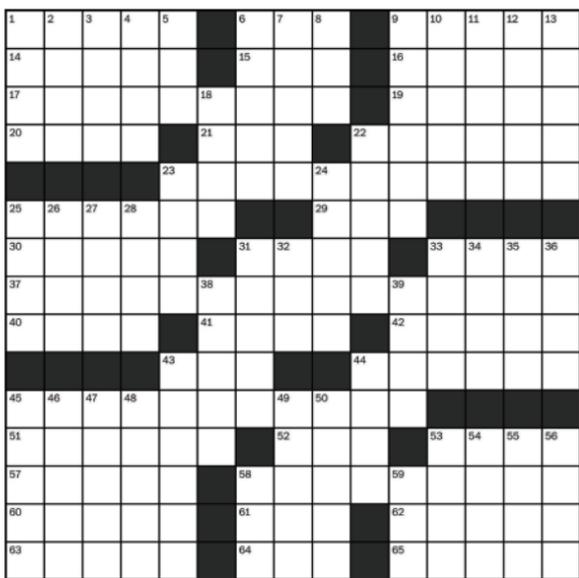
**CONTACT US**

+251 953 14 15 16  
+251 962 48 48 48  
+251 967 54 54 54

info@solomontransit.com  
soltransit@gmail.com

# Entertainment

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Expenses
6. Happy \_\_ clam
9. "Judy" Oscar winner Zellweger
14. Software company that makes InDesign and Acrobat
15. Captain's record
16. Garlicky spread
17. Communication system with dots and dashes
19. "I'm chipped" collar attachment
20. Peel or pare, say
21. Artist Yoko
22. Miss Marple, e.g.
23. "Aladdin" transport
25. One little piggy's destination
29. Cap
30. Look forward to
31. Bike part that can be raised and lowered
33. Rickman of "Love Actually"
37. Early-week newspaper feature
40. Side social media accounts, informally

### DOWN

41. Many moons
42. Temporary body dye
43. Mini owner
44. TikTok content
45. Actor who plays Allan in "Barbie"
51. NYC subway between Inwood and Far Rockaway
52. Chem class locale
53. Exchange
57. Queen's tenure
58. Nickname for Detroit
60. Permeate
61. Be in debt
62. Supporter of the arts?
63. Donkeys
64. "Bel Canto" novelist Patchett
65. Ceremony host, or a phonetic hint to 17-, 23-, 37-, 45-, and 58-Across

### DOWN

1. Summer sleepaway site
2. Smell
3. Achy after exercise, say
4. Meas. on the wrapper of a stick of butter
5. "Catch my drift?"
6. "Run \_\_ now!"
7. "Likewise!"
8. Stone or Iron follower
9. Berate
10. Puffer jacket filler, often
11. Still snoozing
12. Exhilarate
13. Twice four
18. Paint layer
22. Sings like Sarah Vaughan
23. Self-referential
24. Utter mess
25. Three Bears matriarch
26. Mil. truant
27. \_\_ and rave
28. Nanny's offspring

### DOWN

31. Grimace
32. Directional suffix
33. Amazed
34. \_\_ Star State
35. River of Florence
36. Confidentiality contracts, for short
38. Sanaa's country
39. Branch of Islam
43. The "B" of LBJ
44. Airbnb competitor
45. Tennis star Sharapova
46. Action \_\_: post-meeting list
47. Baby beds
48. Peace Palace site, with "The"
49. Bozo
50. Devoured
53. Con
54. The Badger St.
55. Suit to \_\_: fit perfectly
56. Gomer of TV's Mayberry
58. Extinct New Zealand bird
59. Food writer Drummond

Solution: see below



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPES



### Aries

It's important to have very high standards for your work. The more demanding you are of yourself, the easier it will be to accept criticism from others. You'll already know when you're doing a good job. This is a pleasant time for working comfortably with people in situations you know well. Bring your lunch to work in order to save money. If you already do this, plan a potluck to build staff morale.



### Cancer

This is a high-energy time when you should find it easy and pleasant to work with others. Operate from a position of strength where you can't be ruffled. This will help if you have a difficult client or boss. This is an ideal time to apply for a new job or start any new plan or project. Patience will be necessary. You may feel particularly restless. It's an especially good time to travel for education or seminars, and a great time for building friendships that support your career interests.



### Libra

This is a good time for cooperative projects with a practical focus. Take extra time and attention with any budgets or financial documents. It's a good time to do research or contact superiors concerning work benefits. It's also lucky for advertising and any sort of marketing. You may have the best success in negotiating sales if you're willing to give a little. Do your best to finish what you start.



### Capricorn

This remains a very positive and upbeat time for you. Big plans and high ambition will find support if you're willing to communicate with everyone. If you've been taking sick days because you don't like your job, this is a great time to network in order to find something better. Find the best time to approach your boss. You don't have to be busy all the time in order to be effective on the job.



### Taurus

You may feel an especially strong desire to express yourself now. Confidently move forward with new ideas. Be open to feedback. Work-related travel and legal matters will be productive. Pay close attention to financial details. This is a positive time to create or review budgets. Decisions you make now can have a lasting impact. Avoid getting involved in office politics. If you're looking for something new, don't be afraid to network in unusual places.



### Leo

Be willing to put in some extra time without complaint now. Family connections can help your job prospects. A casual conversation could bring an unexpected opportunity. Enjoy the feeling of greater balance and happiness on the job. The more organized you can be, the more efficient you'll be. A challenging situation will demand that you take responsibility and stand your ground. Don't be afraid to say what you think.



### Scorpio

Texts and e-mails make take up much of your time now. The best sorts of jobs will offer you a chance to get out and make many stops visiting customers. Your natural curiosity is strong. Don't hesitate to ask questions in any area of interest or concern. It's a positive time to be of service to the community, although you may feel somewhat lazy. This might be a good time to take a mental health break.



### Aquarius

You could be buried under a pile of unnecessary papers or busywork. Do your best to simplify communication and cut back on the clutter in your life. Don't be overwhelmed by your work. Make lists and cut things down into manageable sections. You'll be more effective doing one thing at a time rather than scattering your attention. Keep your word in all circumstances. Personal integrity is something people admire and reward.



### Gemini

You may be juggling multiple commitments early this month. Your ability to explain complicated matters in a clear, understandable way will win points. This time is lucky for any sort of start. Social contacts made now can help your career prospects. If you've wanted to start out on your own, this is an excellent time to research a business plan or potential startup funding. It's a good time to apply for something new or better.



### Virgo

Family responsibilities may take precedence over work concerns. Keep everyone informed if your plans change. You can expect to have fun on the job. A playful, creative energy will make for easy and enjoyable relationships with co-workers and customers alike. Any work concerning children or the creative arts could win public recognition. This is a lucky time for travel or making plans to upgrade your skills. You might get a raise if you ask.



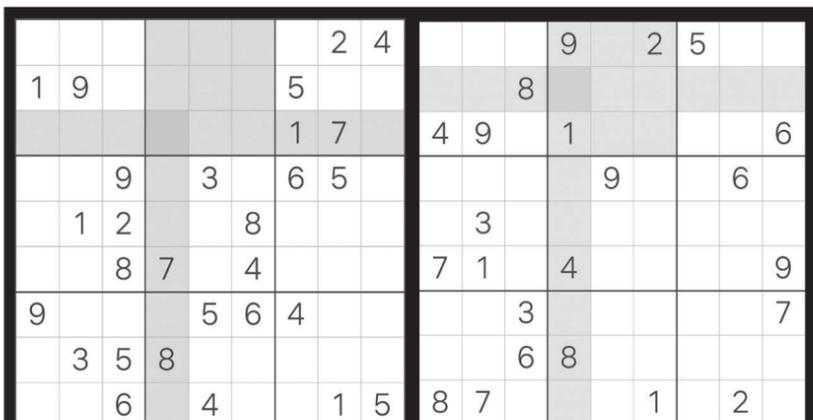
### Sagittarius

Think carefully about what you say in e-mails or text messages. Sometimes people can misunderstand a statement that's simply meant to be businesslike. Sign up for any training courses your company offers now. It will help build a sense of connection with others and you might learn something! Pay close attention to the work you're doing. Is there any way to improve the procedures you use? Avoid being too self-critical.



### Pisces

This is a positive time for making contacts and supervising groups. Your ability to share ideas makes you a good team leader. To be most effective, you must believe in yourself and your talents. If you aren't happy with what you're doing now, arrange to get more training. You may need to consider the possibility that you're taking something the wrong way. This period could bring opportunities in connection with a big corporation.



## Sudoku

The game is easy, the rules are simple. All you have to do is make sure you fill every 3x3 box every row and every column, without repetition, using the number 1-9.

## Word search



- EEVEE
- SUICUNE
- IVYSAUR
- ABSOL
- JOLTEON
- SQUIRTLE
- HO-OH
- CHARIZARD
- CHARMELEON
- DITTO
- VAPOREON
- ENTEI
- FLAREON
- BLASTOISE
- VENUSAUR
- BULBASAUR

## Crossword Solution



# Capital SPORT

## Ethiopia to Host World Athletics One-Day Meeting in Addis Ababa

By our staff reporter

Ethiopia has been officially selected to host an international athletics competition for the first time, with Addis Ababa set to welcome the World Athletics One-Day Meeting on April 18, 2026. The announcement positions the country not only as a producer of world-class runners but also as a capable host for major global sporting events.

The decision follows a thorough evaluation by World Athletics experts and recognizes Ethiopia's recent billion-birr investment in sports infrastructure and its ongoing "Sports Diplomacy" strategy.

Adanech Abebe, Mayor of Addis Ababa, attributed the success to coordinated efforts between the City Administration, the Ministry of

Culture and Sport, and the Ethiopian Athletics Federation. "This historic event is a grand testament to our efforts to solidify Addis Ababa's position on the international sporting stage," she said. "As we welcome the world, we will showcase not just our hosting capacity, but our city's potential, hospitality, and love for athletics."

The One-Day Meetings are globally prestigious competitions with significant rewards. While Ethiopia has long dominated long-distance running—producing legends from Abebe Bikila to Gudaf Tsegay—its athletes have traditionally competed abroad. The April event will mark the first time top international athletes will race on Ethiopian soil.

Ethiopia secured the hosting rights after a field inspection led by Pierce

O'Callaghan, World Athletics Competition Director. During his two-day visit, he assessed organizational readiness, technical facilities, and hospitality capacity. Key infrastructure, including the Adey Abeba International Stadium, which meets FIFA and World Athletics standards, was highlighted as a decisive factor in the approval.

The event will also serve as a capacity-building opportunity. International technical experts will support the competition, allowing local sports professionals to gain experience in broadcasting standards, anti-doping controls, and elite athlete management.

Beyond sports, the competition is expected to boost the local economy, drawing athletes, coaches, media, and spectators, with hotels

and tourism sectors preparing for increased demand.

For Ethiopia's emerging athletes, the event represents a major opportunity. A spokesperson for the Ethiopian Athletics Federation said, "This competition gives rising athletes the chance to compete against the world's best in their own country and in front of home fans."

This milestone reflects Ethiopia's growing reputation as a hub for international athletics and underscores its commitment to hosting world-class sporting events.



## World Athletics Strips Five Ethiopian U20 Records Amid Age Fraud Investigation

By our staff reporter

World Athletics and the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) have disqualified five World U20 records previously held by Ethiopian athletes, following an investigation that revealed discrepancies between the athletes' actual ages and those listed on their official documents.

The probe focused on Medina Eisa, Birke Haylom, and Melknat Wudu, with the records in question set between 2023 and 2024. The findings confirmed that the athletes were significantly older than their passports indicated, rendering them ineligible for U20 competition.

Two-time World U20 champion Medina Eisa was found to have been born in 2002, not 2005 as listed on her passport. This meant she was 22 years old when she won the 5,000m gold at the 2024 Championships in Lima, exceeding the U20 age limit of 19. The investigation concluded that this age discrepancy unfairly deprived eligible competitors of their chance to succeed.

Similarly, former World U20 1,500m champion Birke Haylom was determined to be older than her documented age, though the precise details were not publicly disclosed.

The crackdown is part of a broader age-verification initiative across East Africa, targeting Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria ahead of the 2026 World U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon. Officials emphasize that maintaining fair competition is critical to safeguarding the integrity of youth athletics.

Experts warn that age manipulation not only damages the reputation of the sport but also discourages genuine young talent

from pursuing competitive athletics. The Ethiopian Athletics Federation now faces scrutiny over its record-keeping and oversight, with expectations for

tighter internal controls to prevent future violations.

growing global emphasis on transparency, compliance, and fairness in youth sports

This development underscores the

competitions.



Birke Haylom



Medina Eisa (M)



(L) Medina Eisa, (M) Melknat Wudu



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