

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central text is set against a white background that is framed by these green shapes.

Empowering women through Shelters solidarity and networking in Ethiopia

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Ethiopian Context: Legal framework of the country

- ▶ Ethiopia being signatory of UDHR, CEDAW, VAW and the Beijing platform for action
- ▶ Revised family code in line with the international instruments that aim to protect women and promote their human rights
- ▶ Ethiopia has also ratified many of the international conventions and revised her criminal code to reflect her commitment to ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- ▶ Two regions in Ethiopia (Somali and Afar) have not harmonized their family law with the federal one which makes advocacy efforts on putting in place favorable policies difficult

Ethiopian Context: Level of implementation of laws and policies

- ▶ Gaps in the laws and policies: inconsistent laws and enforcement of the laws against sexual and domestic violence.
- Domestic violence and rape cases often delayed and given low priority
- ▶ poor documentation and inadequate investigation. Department of State (2016): Country Reports for Human Rights 2012 Ethiopia: US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy,
- ▶ Sexual Harassment is widespread in the country but the harassment law has generally not been enforced.
- ▶ Poor capacity of law enforcement body on reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases of violence against women and girls

Ethiopian Context: Socio - cultural context promoting violence

- ▶ Ethiopia is a country composed of around 87 ethnic groups; each ethnic group having unique socio cultural characteristics
- ▶ Prevalence of HTPs: depending on the traditions of the ethnic group, various harmful practices are prevalent in different areas
- ▶ Eg. FGM most prevalent in Somali, Afar and SNNPR
- ▶ Early/child marriage is prevalent in the Amhara and Tigray regions followed by Oromia and Benshangul Gumuz
- ▶ Abduction is most prevalent in SNNPR and Oromia region
- ▶ In Benshangul Gumuz Girls exchanged for marriage, Women forced to give birth in the bushes or by the river alone without any support from midwives, health professionals or even family and relatives

Ethiopian Context: Socio- cultural context cont'd

- ▶ **Social status of women:** in most community groups women are looked upon as subservient, having no voice, no will and no future on their own. Are there to serves men's needs and purposes. As a result, they are given into marriage for dowry and other benefits without their will, they are given to another man in exchange for a wife from that particular family, they are married off to keep houses and bore and raise children, they are rented out or even sold in to slavery to work so that their family might earn income.
- ▶ **Economic status of Women:** Due to the above social status and traditional perspective of women and girls they often lag behind from various opportunities for empowerment (Eg. Education, employment, inheritance, information etc).

Ethiopian Context: findings of the EDHS 2016

- ▶ nearly one-quarter (23 per cent) of women have in some point in their lives experienced physical violence while 10 per cent of the women have experienced sexual violence.
- ▶ 34 per cent of married women have experienced spousal violence, whether physical or sexual or emotional, with emotional violence being the most common.
- ▶ Same study also shows high rates of under-reporting (66 per cent) by women and girls who experienced violence.
- ▶ female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), early marriage, and abduction are prevalent and life-threatening practices that require attention for their harmful effects and implications in the life of girls and women.
- ▶ According to EDHS 2016, 58 per cent of women between the age of 25-49 married before their 18th birthday and 65 per cent of women in the 15-49 age group are circumcised.

CONTRIBUTION OF CSOs

..in the prevention, protection and response to violence against women and girls

- ▶ Reinforce and support the implementation of the legal framework and policies;
- ▶ identification and advocacy on gaps on the legal framework,
- ▶ community mobilization,
- ▶ service provision; unique features

Contribution of CSOs: Reinforce and support the implementation of the legal framework and policies;

- ▶ CSO in Ethiopia until 2019 have been legally prohibited to engage in Advocacy works on the rights of women, children and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Building the capacities of the law enforcement body for effective implementation of VAW laws.

Contribution of CSOs: Identification and advocacy on gaps on the legal framework

- ▶ As organizations working on a grassroots level CSOs have been identifying implementation gaps
- ▶ Generating and sharing data from grassroots communities that support evidence based advocacy
- ▶ Support programs that economically empower women
- ▶ Supports girls to empower them to continue their education

Contribution of CSOs: community mobilization

- ▶ Despite the CSOs legislation that prohibited Ethiopian Resident and International organizations CSOs found a way to mobilize communities through mainstreaming gender concerns in sector development activities e.g health, education, livelihoods and service provision to survivors of violence
- ▶ Capacitate local institutions and community based organization to raise awareness of community groups to prevent HTPs targeting women
- ▶ Establish, Capacitate and strengthen local women's groups to raise awareness on prevention of HTPs

Contribution of CSOs: service provision

- ▶ CSOs also provided essential services to survivors of violence
- ▶ These services supported survivors' rehabilitation and reintegration back to their families, communities and start their own lives and sustaining livelihoods
- ▶ Organized and trained community groups to be aware and use the referral linkages to prevent and respond to violence against women

Ethiopian shelters

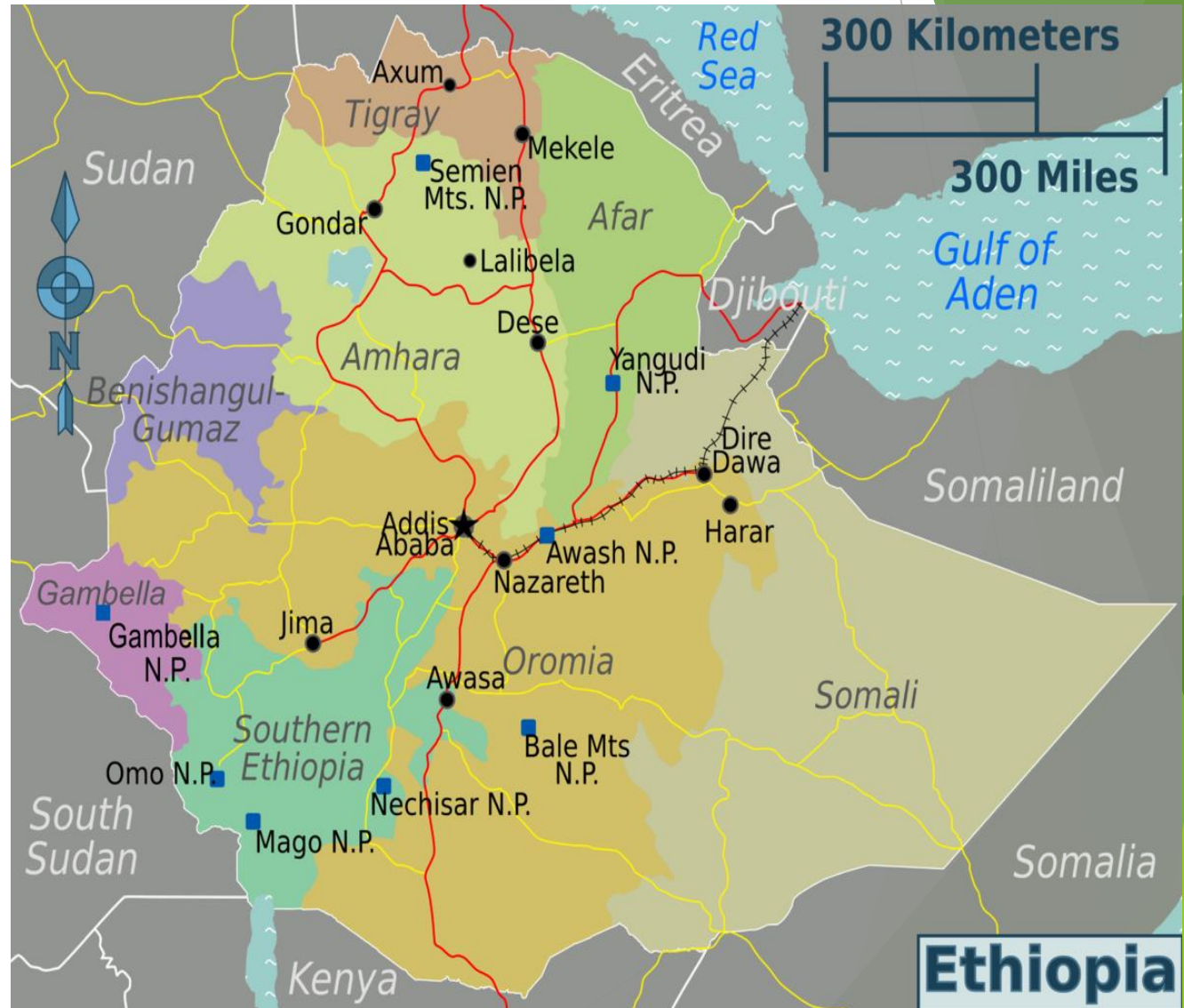
- ▶ location,
- ▶ types of services provided,
- ▶ unique features and experiences of shelters in Ethiopia supported by a short 5-7 min video.

Location of the Shelters

Location	Shelter Organization
Tigray Region; Northern Ethiopia (opened in 2018)	Tigray Women's Association
Amhara Region; Northern Ethiopia (three shelters: Bahir Dar, Gonder and Dessie)	Agar Ethiopia, Association for Women Sanctuary and Development and Good Samaritan Association
Oromia Region - Central Ethiopia (Two shelters : Adama)	Association for Women Sanctuary and Development
SNNP Region - Southern Ethiopia (One shelters)	Association for Women Sanctuary and Development
Benshangul Gumuz Region - Western Ethiopia(two shelters)	Mujejeguwa Loka Women Development Association
Gambella Region - Western Ethiopia (One shelters)	Gambella region Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affair
Addis Ababa city- Central Ethiopia (7 shelters)	AWSAD, Agar, GSA, MLWDA, IFSO, OPRIFS, AA Women Association
Dire Dawa city administration - Eastern	Dire Dawa Bureau of Women Children and

Location on the map

- ▶ Tigray Region; Northern Ethiopia (opened in 2018)
- ▶ Amhara Region; Northern Ethiopia (three shelters: Bahir Dar, Gonder and Dessie)
- ▶ Oromia Region - Central Ethiopia (one shelters : Adama)
- ▶ SNNP Region - Southern Ethiopia (One shelters)
- ▶ Benshangul Gumuz Region - Western Ethiopia (two shelters)
- ▶ Gambella Region - Western Ethiopia (One shelters)
- ▶ Addis Ababa city- Central Ethiopia (7 shelters)
- ▶ Dire Dawa city administration - Eastern Ethiopia (1 shelters)



Types of service provided

- ▶ **Basic needs:** Food, accommodation, clothing and sanitary supplies
- ▶ **Medical Services:** medical treatment, pre and post natal care, HIV testing and ART follow up, and to some extent emergency delivery.
- ▶ **Psycho social support:** individual counseling and group counseling and guidance.
- ▶ **Legal support:** supporting women/girls to access justice
- ▶ **Skill training** for economic empowerment
- ▶ **Reintegration**

Unique features and experiences of shelters in Ethiopia

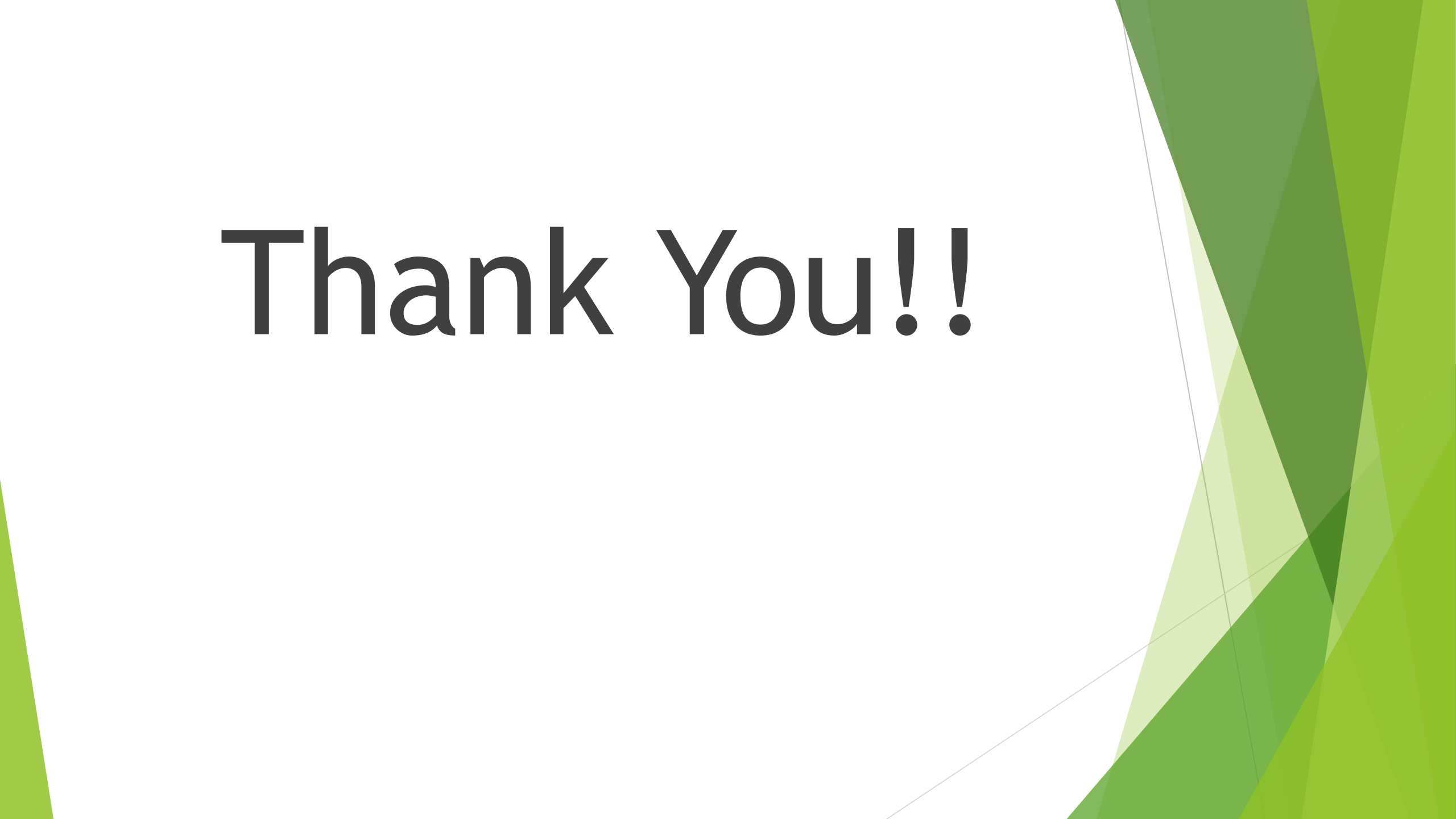
- ▶ Referral among shelters
- ▶ Ex - survivors meeting
- ▶ Technical support and experience sharing among senior and newly establishing shelters

a short 5 -7 min video

Success Story:

- ▶ Of a young service provider who was once a survivor herself. **10min**

Thank You!!

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