



EWIW  
ETHIOPIAN WOMEN IN WATER



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



**Contribution of Ethiopian Women in Water Association to Raise  
Visibility of Women in Water in General and Water Diplomacy in  
Particular**

Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo

# Introduction

- Water is a strategic resource and an essential element of security.
- Its sustainable, fair, and efficient management requires dedicated and qualified professionals, who have both the necessary expertise and enjoy the trust of the water users.
- A stronger commitment to both gender equality and social inclusion is needed in the water sector for sustainable management and development.
- Women have critical roles to play in water resources management and protection.
- Despite the evidence that engaging women in water governance is good policy, a gender gap persists in the water sector.

# Introduction

- Participation of Women in key decision-making processes or participating in initiatives connected to water whether, at the local, institutional, or political level is very low or scarce.
- When women are included, they often confront major obstacles including male resistance and stereotypical perceptions that women lack the ability to engage in technical discussions.
- At first glance, water management might seem like a technical issue that lacks a gender perspective.
- However, as women and men have different roles and responsibilities in a society, they also have different knowledge and experience in relation to the management of water.
- Water scarcity in Ethiopia proves to be a burden for women, causing them to sacrifice work, education, money, and providing for their families.







# Objective

The main objective of the association is to



Empower,



Create networking opportunities,



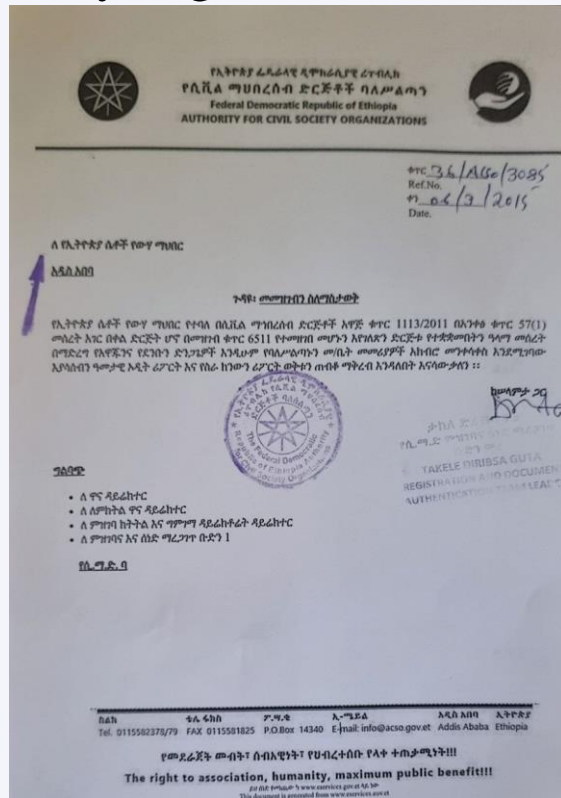
Increase the visibility of professional women, and



Enhance women's participation and leadership in the sector.

# Status of the Association

The Ethiopian Women in Water Association (EWIW) is a legally registered association as a local civil society organization.





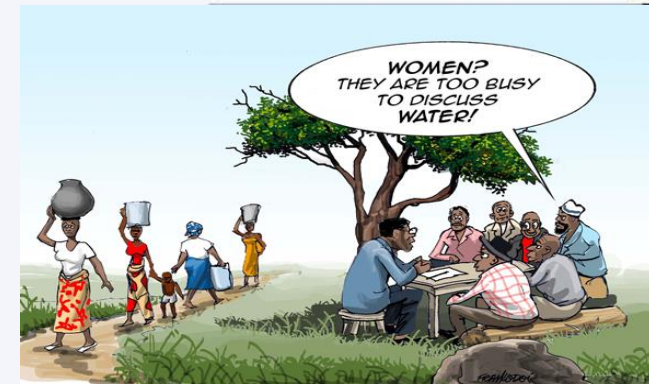
# Status of the Association

Ethiopia Ministry of Water and Energy host the office of the Association .



# Challenges of Women in Water Professions

- Currently, the participation of qualified and professional women in water topics at high, middle, low, and expert levels is minimal and, in some places, non-existent.
- Sometime, those professionals even face difficulty of getting back to the workforce and their previous position for example, after giving birth and carrying out other social and cultural obligations.
- Therefore, the EWIW association will create a platform to share ideas, capacity-building trainings, experience exchange opportunities, the network to empower, or encourage women, and ultimately contribute to gender balance and diversity in the sector.
- The association also facilitates the inclusion of women in water discussions which will lead to better decision-making, improved resource management, and a fresh perspective on the development of the society.





# The Association Success Story



## Success Stories

- The Association employed Office Manager since July 1, 2023. This realizes that the fruit of the association prevails within a short period of time employ its own staff and created job opportunity for others.
- One of the association members got a job due to the information shared through an association network and witnessed that this is a new chapter in her work life after many years of staying at home without a job.
- This realizes that the fruit of the association prevails within a short period of time, and this kept members to contribute more.

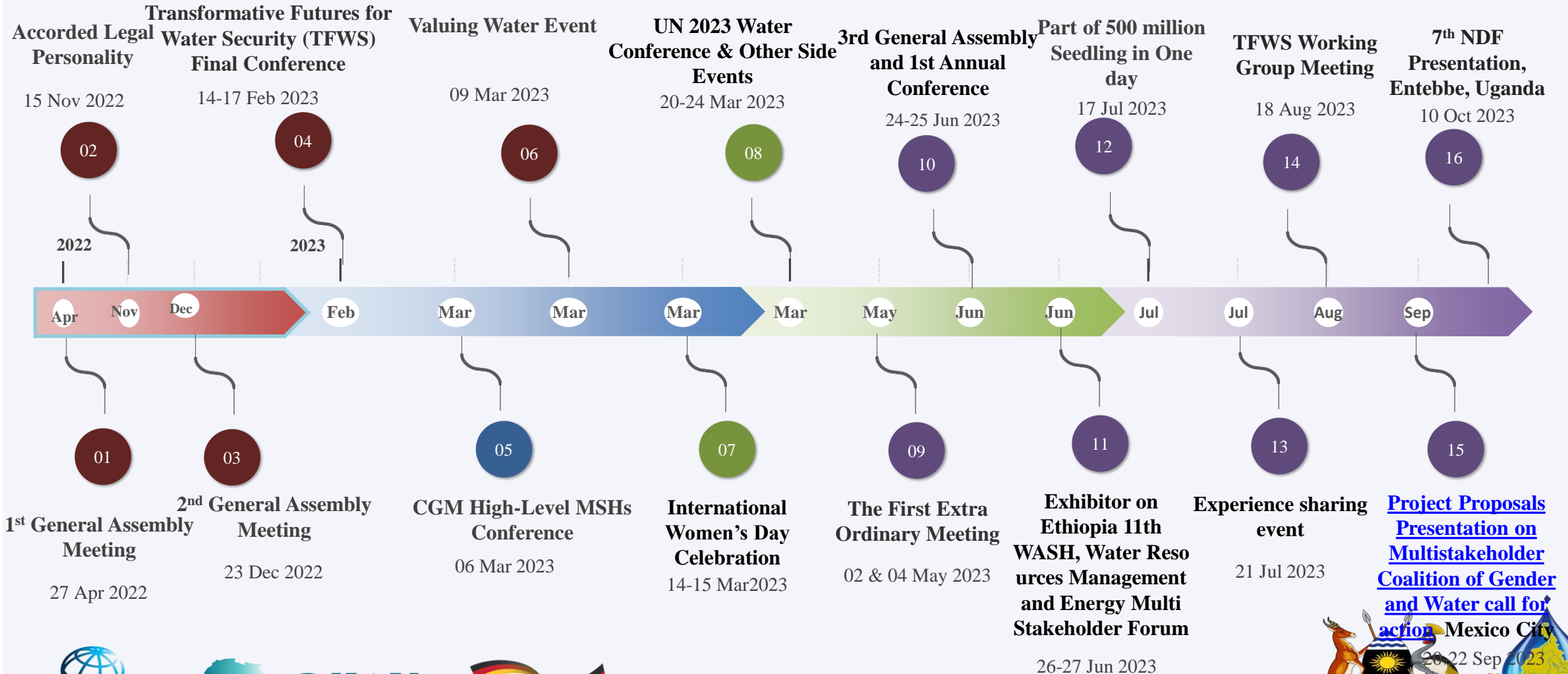


**Miss. Yordanos Yohannes Langano**  
Office Manager and Member of the Association





# The Association Success Story



# UN Water Conference Participation



## Reason for Participation

- That would help us to learn new approaches and ideas to achieve the objective of the association,
- Advertised the association,
- Provided us with an opportunity to build partnership and network with experts and influencers working in the various water sector,
- Shared the experiences of other successful associations and organizations,
- Learnt from experts and influencers in the sector on new approaches and ideas on how we can contribute to the delivery of SDGs.





# UN Water Conference Commitment



**United Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Sustainable Development

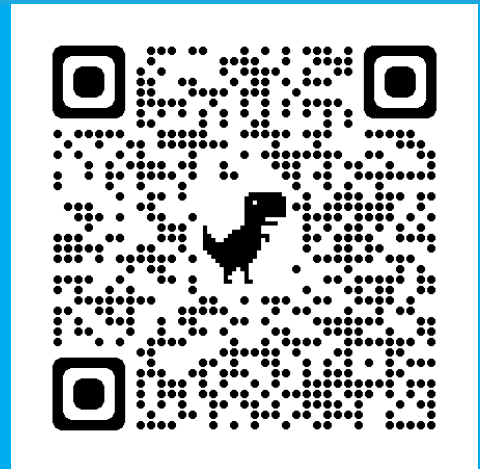


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## Raising the Visibility of Women in Water

Ethiopian Women in Water Association (Civil society organization)

[#SDGAction50820](#)



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# Capacity Building Trainings

- More than 75% of Ethiopia's transboundary surface water resources flow into neighboring countries.
- The participation of water professional women in water diplomacy is very low or insignificant. To improve this gap, the association is arranging different trainings to strengthen the role of women in water diplomacy.
- This will increase the overall capacity of water diplomacy and finally leverage the overall voice of women in decision-making bodies.
- The association is also part of the Women in Water Diplomacy in the Nile, Beyond, and Global, Transformative Future Water Security Coalition, the Multi-Stakeholder Coalition for the Call for Action: "ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WATER DOMAIN"...etc.





# Project Proposals

- Empowering Women in Water Diplomacy and Women in Water Diplomacy Baseline Study of Ethiopia
- The Impacts of Climate Change on Women, the Case Study of the Borena, Oromia, Region, Ethiopia
- Review on Eco hydrology science impacts on the water quality, quantity, biodiversity and eco system service and gender mainstreaming in selected project areas
- Assessing gender mainstreaming on One-WASH program of Ethiopia.
- Review on Women's Participation in Water Resource Management in Selected Project Areas.
- Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Ethiopia

# Lessons Learnt

- Networking is a key tool for the progress of our association; therefore, we will keep networking so far.
- Capacity building training is very important for the realization of planned implementations and increase visibility of the professionals at every level; so, we will maintain that path for the future too.



# Partners

- Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE);
- U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Nile Basin Discourse
- The Inspired Ethiopian Youth Association (IEYA)
- Water Aid Ethiopia
- SIWI
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI),
- UNESCO-WWAP
- Addis Ababa Science and Technology University...etc

# Financial Resources

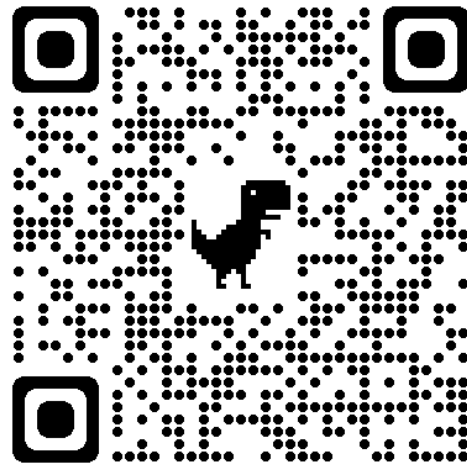
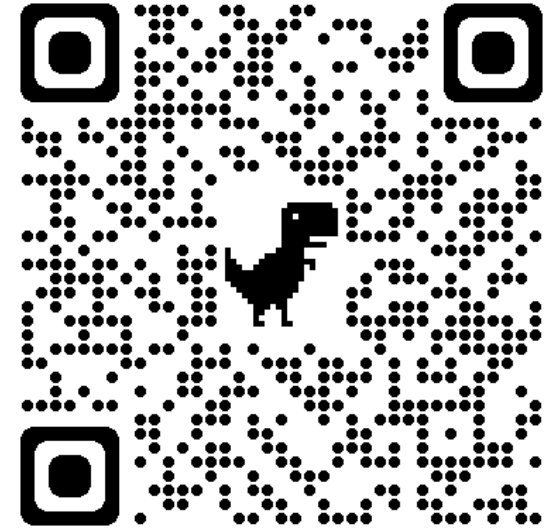
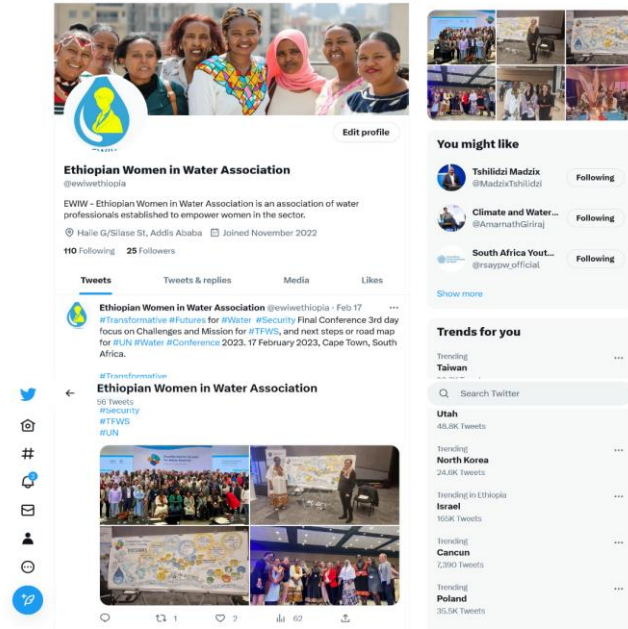
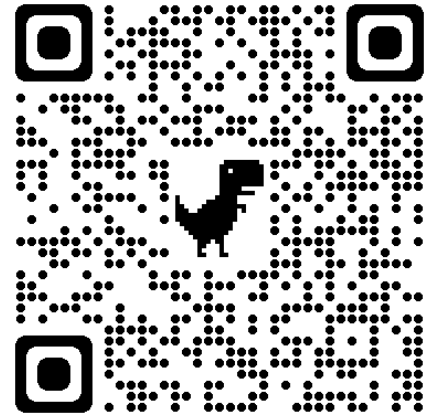
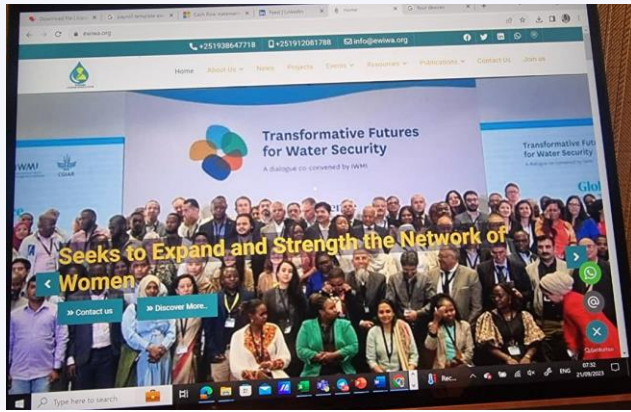
- Membership Contribution;
- Partners Support;
- Project Overhead...etc

# Social Media





# The Website and Social Medias







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INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



**THANK  
YOU!!**

