

### Sub-theme 4.3. Population, Gender, and Development

#### **Rationale**

Population dynamics, gender and development-related issues are the current concerns of countries in the socio-economic reformation trend. The increasing rate of population in sub-Saharan African countries in the next forty years is a threat requiring urgent strategic policies. The impacts of population dynamics play crucial roles in resource degradation. As population continues to expand, it exerts pressure on the proper functioning of the ecosystem and natural resource stocks. One of the reasons of the shrinkage in land holdings as well as degradation of natural resources in many parts of Ethiopia emanates from rapid population growth. Thus, assessment of the processes and factors leading to population dynamics and the resultant effects is indispensable to promote sustainable economic, social, and ecological development in eastern Ethiopia in particular and the country at large.

The increasing concern on how to mainstream gender issues in development projects has been one facet with regard to gender in population. This is due the fact that both men and women play important roles in the successes of any development interventions. However, in most societies, women are disadvantaged in that they are not wholly involved in the decision making process and share no benefits. Both inter- and intra-household differentials in terms of decision making, access to and control over productive resources are common in developing countries. Even though unprecedented efforts have been made by the government of Ethiopia to mainstream gender issues in all development projects carried out by both governmental and non-governmental organisations, there remains a lot to be done to fill the gaps. Information about gender-related issues, roles and relations, decision making, access to and control over resources, gender-based violence, etc is limited in Ethiopia. Knowledge about important factors that need to be considered while mainstreaming gender issues in development activities is generally scarce. Therefore, there is a need to undertake research on gender and development.

## **Aim**

This sub-theme aims at analysing gender-based issues, modernisation and development, and population dynamics.

## **Description**

This sub-theme includes studies on issues that are related to gender such as gender-based violence, gender analysis, gender and livelihoods, gender mainstreaming, gender and poverty, gender and social vulnerability, gender auditing and budgeting, gender and population, and gender disparity in higher education, leadership positions, economic and political spheres, gender and HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, gender and energy, gender and media, gender and natural resource management, gender and climatic change, gender sensitive governance, and empowerment of women. In relation to population, the sub-theme focuses on factors that affect the population structure such as migration, fertility, mortality, and marital status. It also researches into socio economic changes and levels that determine the living status and quality of life of the society.

## **Potential Collaborators**

Bureaus of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Justice, Agriculture and Finance and Economic Development, academic and training centres and institutions, UNFPA, UNICEF, Save the Children, UNHCR, USAID, embassies, children's right protection organisations, etc.

## **Expected Output**

- Gender disaggregated information related to decision-making, access to and control over resources
- Improved gender mainstreaming as strategy in all policies of the countries and institutions
- Gender roles and responsibilities in economic development, participation in politics and natural resources management
- Improved policy options for improvement towards gender equality

- Improved ways of tackling gender based violence
- Deterrents to improved socio-economic status of the society in general and women in particular
- Strategic information on population dynamics for decision making

## Research Areas

### 4.3.1. Gender and development

This research area deals with gender and sustainable livelihoods, gender and poverty, gender and social vulnerability, gender and natural resource management, and gender and climatic change. It also focuses on exploring the causes, determinants and solutions to alleviate gender-related problems. It analyses the implications of laws, policies, programmes, and projects with reference to men; and problems in gender power imbalance and gender-related concerns. It investigates involvement of both women and men in the economy, politics, and natural resources management.

This research area also addresses problems that arise from power relation of women/girls and men/boys and cultural practices that have a detrimental effect to girls' and women's life such as early marriage, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, rape and marriage by abduction, which are common phenomena that not only violate the dignity of women but also endanger their life and health.

### 4.3.2. Population dynamics

This research area deals with the causes, determinants, and consequences of rapid population growth, migration, urbanisation, mortality and other factors that determine population structure and development. Policies, actions, and strategies to curb problems related to population, urbanisation, and development are also dealt with under this research area.

## Beneficiary

The scientific community, women advocacy groups, industries, policy makers, and the wider public