



ETHIOPIA

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR		WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?	
		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Ethiopia has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

The *Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2021–2025* aims to expand equitable, quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent, and youth health services, strengthen regulatory frameworks, coordination, monitoring, and supply systems, and raise awareness of reproductive health rights and related laws. The *National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy 2021–2025* addresses young people's health needs, including reducing adolescent pregnancy and HIV prevalence and delaying early marriage.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FGM is a criminal offense in Ethiopia, triggering monetary penalties and detention penalties up to five

years. Additionally, parents participating in the commission of the crime can be punished with up to three months of imprisonment. The *National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM* outlines strategies and targets for eliminating FGM.

FAMILY PLANNING

No explicit legal provisions require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

The *National Guideline for Family Planning Services* provides protocols for the delivery of family planning services.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Ethiopia's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Ethiopia may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not guarantee the right to SRH or access to SRH services. Additionally, it does not prohibit discrimination in accessing SRH services based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

While FGM is a criminal offense, the law does not address cross-border FGM.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools. Guidelines or protocols for the delivery of CSE in schools have not been adopted.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The law does not explicitly provide for the right of pregnant or parenting students to attend school. No policies have been adopted to keep girls in school or to allow pregnant or parenting students to attend school.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	N/A	
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	Yes	Criminal Code, Arts. 565 and 566
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	Yes	Criminal Code, Arts. 565 and 566
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	Yes	Criminal Code, Art. 569
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2021-2025; National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy 2021-2025
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2021-2025; National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy 2021-2025
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2021-2025; National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy 2021-2025
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	Yes	National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C 2020-2024; National Alliance to End FGM and Child Marriage
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	Yes	National Guideline for Family Planning Services in Ethiopia; Adolescent and Youth Health Standards, Implementation Guideline and Minimum Service Delivery Package
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located

