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Strengthening Research and Educational Competences of HEIs for Gender sensitive Urban (InfoRmal Settlement) Transformation | GIRT
A partnership between Ethiopia, Mozambique and Austria

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

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PARTNER COUNTRIES:

Ethiopia, Mozambique

PROJECT DURATION:

1 May 2022 – 30 April 2026
(48 months)

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The project entitled “Strengthening Research and Educational Competences of HEIs for Gender sensitive, Informal settlements’ Transformation” (GIRT) specifically looks at women’s daily lived experiences in informal settlement and the impact that the Covid19 pandemic is having on them in Ethiopia and Mozambique.

In the rapidly growing cities of these two countries informal settlements cater for the housing needs of low-income sections of society. Overcrowding, lack of basic infrastructure and unhygienic living conditions render inhabiting informal settlements difficult especially for women who often carry the majority of household related duties under these challenging living conditions. These difficulties have been further exacerbated by the impacts of Covid19 as proper hygiene is extremely difficult to maintain in most informal settlements. They were therefore hot spots of outbreaks. But so far, few attempts have been made to investigate the “female face of urban informality”.

The GIRT project partners from Ethiopia, Mozambique and Austria have previously worked together on informality in housing which enables them to now explore viable solutions for pressing daily challenges in selected informal settlements with a focus on women’s needs. GIRT will perform qualitative research to identify not just problems but also coping strategies and potentials for change. The project also seeks to employ a set of tested transdisciplinary methods to engage with local stakeholders in a strive to identify improvements of women’s living conditions.

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