

SEEDS

Sustainable East African Education and Development Society

*IMPROVING THE LIVES OF IMPOVERISHED AND
VULNERABLE CHILDREN, WOMEN & FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA*

Spring 2016

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Thank you so much for your generous financial and time contributions to SEEDS over the last year. On behalf of SEEDS, we would like to provide you with a few updates that show the difference you have made through your financial support.

- Meheret Worku, Scott Smillie & the SEEDS Board of Directors



OUR MISSION

SEEDS exists in order to provide opportunities for at risk children and their families suffering from the effects of poverty, to meet their basic needs and access services that serve to break the cycle of adversity and develop greater independence. The society strives to empower families by supporting their communities to be better equipped to respond to their needs and capabilities.

In December 2015, Meheret, Chair of the Board, visited two SEEDS project sites in Sendafa and Amanuel. Meheret had a chance to meet with the families, teachers and the Zone officials. The visit provided a chance to see what has been accomplished over the past year, and gain an understanding of what challenges the community is facing.

Sendaffa

In Sendafa, SEEDS supports 70 preschoolers at the Legedadi Elementary School. SEEDS started this program three years ago as there was no preschool program at the school at that time. Originally, SEEDS hired two teachers to instruct the children in a space provided by the elementary school. The program has been so successful that Legedadi Elementary school has hired a third teacher to accommodate the increasing number of students.

SEEDS also supports 140 elementary students at the Legedadi School by providing uniforms and school supplies. The reaction from the community to SEEDS 's support has been overwhelmingly positive. The teachers have suggested that the students be able to participate in an after-school tutorial program. Our next goal for Legedadi Elementary is to be in a position to hire more teachers and provide the resources required to run the after-school program.



Amanuel

In the Gojjam province, SEEDS works with three elementary schools in the village of Amanuel, providing 140 students with school supplies and uniforms. These contributions enable the schools to meet the basic requirements to teach children in a classroom setting. SEEDS provided startup capital which enabled the purchase of chairs, desks, and mats for children in pre-school programs. Despite this, more resources are needed by the schools.

One major problem Amanuel's schools are having is consistent access to clean water. To address the issue, SEEDS has provided water tanks to help the availability of water when the city's main water supply system is not working. A larger part of this problem is the lack of adequate washroom facilities for students.

Amanuel # 2 Primary school's washroom was built by the school principal with what little materials he could gather from the community members; it has no stable water access.



The washroom in Amanuel # 3 Primary school is outside of the compound of the school and also has no access to water. The Principal is worried about the safety of the kids when they leave the compound.

Meheret also visited the classroom that supports the special needs students in Amanuel. There is only one classroom in one school for all the special needs students in the village. The teachers' biggest challenge is that they have basically no resources to give the extra support that these students require. These students require books, braille literature, and increased teaching staff.

Please consider donating to SEEDS this year. Your support helps fund our important projects which help improve the quality of life of families in poverty.

**Thank you so much
for your ongoing
support!**



Sandafa & Amanuel Schools' Wish list for 2016

- Construction of improved washrooms for all three primary schools
- Desks and chairs for the preschools
- Books, Braille resources, and more teachers for the special needs classroom
- Hiring teachers for after school programs
- New books for the school libraries
- Basic schools supplies for all the students
- Uniforms for every student
- Computers for the schools

Every Donation to SEEDS helps further the goals of these schools. By improving the education of Sandafa and Amanuel's children, the entire community is able to achieve improvements in quality of life.

Please donate and help us reach these goals in 2016.



TO DONATE

Visit www.seedseastafrica.com

You may also write a cheque payable to SEEDS and send to:

1919 108th Street

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SEEDS as an Organization & Meeting with Officials

After the project site visits, Meheret met with the community officials to discuss successes and challenges for the future. The officials in Sendafa and Gojjam appreciate the work we have accomplished in each community. It has been three years since SEEDS was granted a license to operate in Ethiopia as a Not-For-Profit organization. With the help of our donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff, we have enabled wonderful growth in our project communities. At the same time, there have been challenges.

SEEDS has officially renewed its status as a non-profit in Ethiopia for its 3rd year. Meheret, Scott, and the whole SEEDS team are excited to continue this exciting adventure with the SEEDS community! Each year, licensed non-profits are required to fulfill many requests that the government has put in place. It is a necessary system put in place to make charitable organizations transparent and accountable. These requirements are useful for SEEDS to fulfill our goals, but also have required some adjusting to new roles and duties.

Submitting documents in correct sequence, conducting program evaluations, and amendments to plans have provided SEEDS with fresh challenges. In many cases, miscommunication has made these processes inefficient. As well, not having a full time Country Representative that follows up with all the affairs of the organization has contributed to this challenge. Having a full time Country Representative enables us to meet objectives on time. Moving forward, SEEDS needs to look into putting together the proper organizational structure to improve the processes and reports required by the government.

Thank you for your continued support. Without our donor network, our past and present successes would not have been achieved. We look forward to sharing news and updates on our initiatives in 2016!



Thank you again.

Please don't forget to check the [SEEDS](#) website throughout the year for updates.

TOGETHER we can do our part to break the cycle of adversity in Ethiopia!

