
S.E.E.D.S.

SUSTAINABLE EAST AFRICAN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

WINTER, 2012

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



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 through supporting their communities to be better equipped to respond to their needs and capabilities. Serving the independent needs of families and their communities is a fundamental strategy in achieving our mission.

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A YEAR IN BRIEF

CURRENT PROJECTS

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another organization a micro credit initiative and schooling support.

Other bench-marks for this past year have included receiving our Charitable status with the Canadian Revenue Agency, allowing us to now issue charitable tax receipts.

In response to a change in charitable law in Ethiopia, we have also applied for our International NGO license to operate in the country. This required dealing with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs; the Ethiopian Consular General in Ottawa; the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Charities Office in Ethiopia.

Addis Ababa

Out of our head office, we continue to support many children and youth with their schooling. Presently about 40 children are supported to attend school, with school supplies, uniforms, fees and extra clothes. We assist the mothers of these children through micro credit. We are particularly proud that the parents whose children were attending private schools have agreed to pay their children's tuition costs, a sign that they are finding success in financial stability through the micro-credit program. We also support a women's cotton spinning



Meheret with some of SEEDS original students, 14 years later at the SEEDS Head Office



Some of the children supported through the Legedadi Preschool in Sendafa

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Our Vision & Needs



Former Orphanage Building We Are Negotiating to Secure for SEEDS

- As we have the word "Sustainable" as part of our organizations name, the principal is core to our work. It is important now with the size of the organization, it's staff and number of people being served, that we sustain this level of support, both financially and through other resources, such as Board support, administrative support, etc.
- The work-load of the organization is such now that some functions require consistent and dependable functional support. This is difficult to guarantee through volunteers alone, thus the Board

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S.E.E.D.S. Supported - Women's Cotton Spinning Cooperative in Addis Ababa



Classrooms at the Legedadi School in Sendafa

Current Projects (continued)

Sendafa Projects

We started working in partnership with the Legedadi Primary School last January, 2011. Sendafa is about 1 hour outside of the capital city of Addis Ababa. We support about 140 students who were barriered financially to attend school, with their fees, uniforms, school supplies, and extra clothes. We also started a preschool program in the school, hiring two teachers running two classrooms with a total of 100 children.

We recently piloted support to help some of the parents through micro credit programming as well. We work in partnership with local authorities to screen and ensure entrance criteria to our programs are followed. We have supported the school with a computer and the two preschool teachers and have one field officer who coordinates services, data collection and communication with partners.

We are presently negotiating on the use of a neighboring building for our programs. Recently built about 5 years ago, this building was a Spanish supported orphanage. After their funding dried up, the government assumed ownership of the asset. We have proposed sharing the building with local authorities to operate preschool programming out of the building, support office needs and partner with local authorities to run additional programs in support of the broader community, strengthening community ownership and capacity in addressing local social programming needs.

The regional educational authority is supporting our facility request. The school has asked our assistance in building toilet facilities for the school. Presently there is an outhouse with no running water, to support a student population of 1200

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students. Keeping in mind that there are schools in similar conditions in the region, part of our vision is to expand our support and partnership to some of these schools, building upon the strong partnerships that are developing with local government and education authorities.

Gojjam Project

In partnership with a U.S. based organization called People to People, we are working in the village of Amanuel, six hours drive north of Addis Ababa. People to People is an Ethiopian diaspora based charity whose focus is on linking Ethiopian – U.S. health professionals with health development initiatives in Ethiopia. They presently operate a small orphanage in Amanuel.

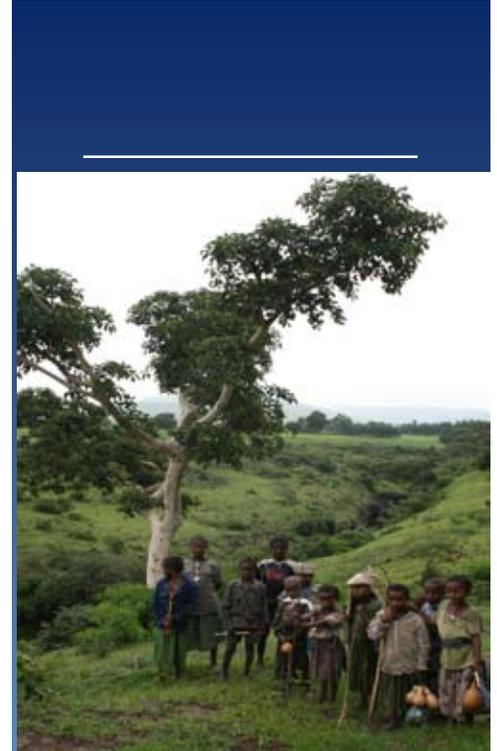
Our focus is on supporting 100 women with micro-credit / loan circle programming support. We also support two families of orphaned children to remain in their homes and attend school and avoid continued involvement in high-risk economic activities (selling locally made alcohol). We are also in the process of assessing the needs and developing criteria with local authorities to determine which children of the families being supported with micro-credit are not in school, due to financial barriers.

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cooperative, which supports a group of 10 women. Many of our original students are now in college programs or have gone on to find employment, demonstrating the value of long term educational support for the poorest of families and their children.



Meheret Worku and Ato Mekonnen of People to People, meeting with the women supported by the Micro Credit/Loan Circle Project in Amanuel, Gojjam



Children of the Blue Nile near Lake Tana, Bahar Dar, the source of the Nile River



Scott, distributing micro credit loans in Amanuel, Gojjam

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has elected to hire some type of staffing support. The organization however will not apply individual donations towards a Canadian salaried position, nor does the CIP Grant provide provision for utilizing funds for Canadian based salaries. In fact, this is the most difficult cost to fund and many organizations working internationally are limited in their scope or fail because they are not able to sustain consistent focus on administrative activities. Now that S.E.E.D.S. has received it's charitable status and obtains grant funding, the degree of reporting and accountability has increased significantly. We are seeking input for ways to fund salaries from sources outside of individual donations, which we have traditionally always applied to our operations/services in Ethiopia

- We invite anyone interested in being part of helping to develop our sustainability vision. Areas where people might be able to help include linking us to corporate partners, supporting our desire to partner with service clubs, becoming a Board Member – committing a needed skill/function to this work; volunteering for fundraising activities or joining us on a visit to Ethiopia and acting as an Ambassador for the organization.
- We also hope in the future to provide more funding options to those interested in making long term funding support to the organization, i.e. through planned giving programs. Anyone with experience in this area is welcome to express an interest in supporting this kind of development.
- We seek interest and partnerships in expanding our micro-credit/loan circle programming and educational support in Ethiopia. We also hope to develop a local programming component to the organization that serves to engage youth in

development issues, creating public awareness of international development history, dilemmas and emerging models of development. We hope to develop a network of emerging organizations, especially those that are seeded by individuals with a desire to give back to their home countries in Africa. An expressed need in Alberta communities, support to build capacity of small diaspora driven organizations and the collective voice of small NGO's in the development field is an area SEEDS hopes to support.

- In short, our vision and needs in the near future include:
 - Sustainable fund development
 - Strengthened Board and Administrative support.
 - Partnerships with corporate partners and service club partners to resource our needs, expand and sustain our programs in Ethiopia.
 - Volunteers to assist in fundraising activities.
 - Local program activities to reach out and support the education of youth and similar NGO's (non-government organizations) support the strengthening of organizational capacity and share in a collective development/civil society voice on development issues.
 - Provide travel opportunities for those interested in witnessing, experiencing and reciprocating relationships with the direct work we do in Ethiopia.

Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Fundraiser:

Stay tuned as we plan this annual event and make the date and event details available.

May 6, 2012:

A presentation and update of the past years activities including a slide show of our past two visits, will be held at Knox Metropolitan United Church, 8307-109 Street, Edmonton at 11:45 to 12:00 start time. Lunch and presentation and Annual General Meeting to follow. Free will donations appreciated.



S.E.E.D.S. is seeking support of \$5000 to help build a hygienic and functional bathroom facility and bring running water, to the 1200 Legedadi Elementary School students in Sendafa.
