



**Hope for Children Organization Australia Ltd**  
**Ethiopia 2014 - 2015 Annual Report**



“In the past 40 years, I’ve been amazed at how the poorest communities in Ethiopia can find innovative solutions to their problems. When asked what they want for the future, they all say the same thing: an education, good health and a job. Our programs go to the heart of these solutions.”

*Jacqui Gilmour, Founder and Director*

## INTRODUCTION

2014-2015 was a milestone year for Hope for Children Organization Australia Ltd (HFC) as we celebrated a decade working with vulnerable children and women in Ethiopia. This Annual Report covers the programs of HFC and key accomplishments, changes and challenges during the 2014 - 2015 period.

### Our History

- Founded by Jacqui Gilmour in 2004, Hope for Children works in Ethiopia to support vulnerable children, young people and their families to realise their inherent potential. HFC registered in Australian as a not-for-profit company in May 2004 with the objective of carrying on work in Ethiopia in the areas of health, education and training, livelihoods and raising funds for these purposes.
- For the following 7 years, HFC funded and partnered with Hope for Children Ethiopia (HFC Ethiopia), an indigenous Ethiopian NGO.
- Partnering with HFC Ethiopia, HFC funded the delivery of a range of programs in Addis Ababa and Babile, Eastern Ethiopia for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) particularly those impacted by HIV/AIDS. These programs included a Sponsorship Program, Group Homes, a Home Based Care Service, 'Let's Talk about Sex' a sexual and reproductive health program for young people, and a Youth Enrichment Centre.
- In 2009 HFC gained OAGDS from the Australian Taxation Office and AusAid, which gave it tax deductibility status in Australia allowing it to increase its fundraising efforts for Ethiopia.
- In 2010 HFC registered in Ethiopia as a foreign charity under the new Ethiopian Charities and Societies Proclamation 2009, licensing it to implement and fund programs directly in Ethiopia.



## Hope For Children Today

Today HFC continues to serve OVCs and their families as well as women who are returnees from the Middle East. We have a Head Office located in the heart of Gulele sub-city and employ approximately 60 Ethiopian staff including development professionals, teachers, counsellors and livelihood experts among others. Three Australian staff based in Ethiopia provides program and technical assistance to the local staff.

We currently have four project sites in Addis Ababa and two Operating Agreements with the Addis Ababa City Administration. The total number of beneficiaries under these two projects is 1669 direct beneficiaries and 8345 indirect beneficiary.

HFC also sub-granted to local NGO, Organisation for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA) to implement a small OVC care and support program, which has 75 direct beneficiaries in Babile, Eastern Harage Zone, Oromiya Region. OSSA have an operating agreement for this program with the Eastern Harage Zone Finance and Economic Development Office and Women and Children Affairs.

In Australia's Head Office, a small and largely voluntary team provide administrative, financial and funding support to the Ethiopian in country office.

## Our Vision

An Ethiopia where vulnerable communities have the capacity and resources to participate fully in creating meaningful solutions for their lives.

## Our Mission

HFC works with vulnerable Ethiopian communities in the areas of health, education, and livelihood. HFC's approach is two-fold: to foster community based participation, resilience and creative problem-solving to address current challenges; and to develop replicable models of success for dissemination across Ethiopia.

## Our Values

HFC's core values guide our work:

- We believe in human potential.
- We strive for innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in all of our work.
- We believe the community's where we operate have a vital role to play in our decision-making processes and work.
- We believe in building trust with our stakeholders by operating with accountability and transparency.

## Summary of Activities and Achievements

This reporting period saw a number of major improvements in the organisational strength and capacity of HFC which has resulted in the improved quality of the services we provide to our beneficiaries:

- HFC conducted an extensive Strategic Planning process in the first half of the reporting period and in the beginning of the second half of the reporting period implemented the HFC Three Year Strategic Plan which provides the organisation with its strategic direction for 2015-2018.
- In the second half of the reporting period HFC signed an MoU with major donor the Freedom Fund and Geneva Global for the partial funding of the Women & Child Livelihood Program in Addis Ketema. This represents the second step in our strategic shift to obtain a sustainable institutional funding base.
- HFC moved into a spacious new head office in Gulele Sub City Woreda 3, located 200 metres from our former Head Office. This has provided the organisation with much larger classrooms and counselling spaces to conduct our activities with children and youth.



*Our spacious, leafy green new Head Office. Children sit outside to do group activities.*

## Overview of Our Programs

### Gulele Sub City - Sponsorship, Scholarship, Youth Enrichment Centre, Home Based Care and Psychosocial Support Programs (2015-2018)

- Objective 1: Success in primary and secondary education: To ensure that 379 orphans and vulnerable children (herein referred to as 'OVC') between the ages of 4-18 years of age attend school regularly, succeed academically and become productive citizens by the end of the project life through provision of monthly financial, material and tutorial support.
- Objective 2: Access to Higher Education: To assist 80 beneficiaries aged 15 to 24 years to pursue vocational training and/or advanced higher education to prepare them for employment once they have completed their school studies through provision of monthly allowance and covering their tuition fees.
- Objective 3: Reproductive Health & HIV/AIDS Prevention: To enhance the academic performance, knowledge, and skill of OVC and youth to prevent themselves from HIV infection, unplanned pregnancy and related problems through provision of counselling services, life skill training and extracurricular activities in the youth enrichment centre.
- Objective 4: Physical Health: To ensure that all 459 OVC in the program are healthy and treated for any health related illness through referral service arrangement and covering their health related expenses.
- Objective 5: Home Based Care: To improve the well-being of parents, guardians of beneficiaries and other patients in the community who are critically ill and bed ridden due to HIV and other chronic diseases through provision of home based care (thereby lifting the caring burden from children).

### Yeka Sub City - The School of St Yared

- Objective 1: To enable 192 students to succeed academically and become productive citizens through the delivery of quality education.
- Objective 2: Provide quality facilities, highly trained and caring teaching staff and an engaging curriculum to 192 children so that children become self-fulfilling Ethiopian citizens.
- Objective 3: Physical Health: To ensure that all 192 children in the program are healthy and treated for any health related illness through referral service arrangement and covering their health related expenses and receiving nutritious food for 2 main meals per day and snack.
- Objective 4: Enabling access to quality education through the provision of transport service, scholastic materials, and uniform.

### Addis Ketema Sub City - Women & Child Livelihood Program (2014-2017)

- Objective 1: To create economic and social opportunities for 300 young women who are at risk of 'risky' migration & human trafficking
- Objective 2: To improve social and economic status of the target women
- Objective 3: To reduce the psychological problems of target women through counselling and reintegration services
- Objective 4: Strengthen community-based organisations in target areas to provide community based support for women at risk of risky migration and returnees .



*Tinsae plays hopscotch during the Summer Program.*

## Description of Activities and Achievements



### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

*Three School of St Yared's students show an iPad they are excited to use in class.*

#### 1. The School of St Yared

The School of St Yared was established with the aim of increasing access to quality education among orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), all of whom are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as many also affected by HIV/AIDS. It strives to help those children develop to their full potential and to grow to become healthy, empowered and independent adults who can escape the cycle of poverty and vulnerability and to contribute to Ethiopia's economic and social development.

#### Major Accomplishments:

- 1.1. *Provided Formal and Quality Education:* During the report period the School of St Yared has provided quality formal education to a total of 192 children. The education was provided based on the Ethiopian Ministry of Education's policies and standards.
- 1.2. *School Feeding:* The School of St Yared recognises that malnutrition is a problem in Ethiopia and it affects the health of the child and their ability to learn. With this recognition,

the school provides meals (three times a day) throughout the academic year through its School Feeding Program.

- 1.3. *School Materials Support:* The School of St Yared provided essential learning materials and uniforms for the children.
- 1.4. *Transport Service for Student:* The School of St Yared made a concerted effort to ensure child protection through diverse measures including providing school bus transportation to and from their homes.
- 1.5. *Extra-curricular activities:* Students participated in various social events (sport, holidays celebration), cultural entertainments (music, dance, drama, poetry) and Ethiopian Flag Day, among others. These activities are a major channel for the development of life skills, in particular the formation of valuable attitudes and behaviour patterns and have improved communication, understanding of cultural diversity, to explore and nurture own talents. Above all, by actively participating children were found to have stronger self-confidence and a sense of community. The monthly contests organised on specific subject areas have improved academic performance to all students attend in the School of St Yared.
- 1.6. *Improved School Infrastructure and Facilities:* In the 2007 academic year (EC) the School of St Yared education programs (all classes) took place in two leased compound located in Yeka sub-city, Farensay and in Bole Sub City. To ensure continued quality education, and to launch second cycle primary education (Grade 5) HFC has moved the School of St Yared to a more spacious and well equipped compound, located in Bole Sub-City and it has built and renovated three quality new classrooms, and improved facilities such as the library, ICT room and equipment, health service corner, clean water, separate and adequate latrine, playing grounds, feeding shelters, etc.
- 1.7. *Adequate Supplies and Equipment:* HFC has developed/ purchased sufficient number of textbooks, activity books and teacher guides to support quality teaching-learning process.
- 1.8. *Teaching Staff:* Out of twenty-seven staff at the School of St Yared are government-trained teachers with teaching experience, known of the national educational standards.

#### Other Events:

- The individual performance of teaching staff was assessed and reviewed on the report period. One on one performance reviews were conducted with all staff.
- The School of St Yared has organised a number of meetings of the teachers that have contributed, developed and maintained continuous innovation, and initiatives to ensure the quality of education in the school.

#### Working with the Community:

- The School of St Yared works with local public schools including collaborating on art and sports day and providing teacher training for local teachers at government schools in the community
- Parents participate through volunteering in the construction of additional three classrooms and grounds and maintenance

- The School elects a Parent Committee each school year, and a X parents were elected to the Committee during the reporting period. Various meetings with the School of St Yared Parent's Committee were convened and discussed critical issues related to the students and the school's performance.

#### Significant Achievements:

- Students have participated in various social events (sport, holidays celebration, cultural entertainments - including music, dance, drama, poetry and Ethiopian Flag Day, among others). These activities are a major channel for the development of life skills, in particular the formation of valuable attitudes and behaviour patterns and have improved communication, understanding of cultural diversity, to explore and nurture owns talents.
- Monthly contests organised on specific subject areas have improved academic performance to all students enrolled the program.
- Learning outcomes improved at both KG and during first cycle education program through the reinforcement and better coordination of key quality inputs and processes.
- The School of St Yared increased its annual intake by 15 percent.



“With education, these children will grow into self-sufficient young adults and become the future leaders of their community. Through education, we can break the poverty cycle.”

## 2. Sponsorship

HFC's Child Sponsorship activities ensures OVC's in the HFC target community of Gulele receive proper education (at least to year 10), adequate nutrition, medical care, life skills and psychosocial care. 'Child Sponsors' from Australia and the United States pay an annual fee to support their child, ideally until they graduate from University or vocational training, or are no longer in need of financial support because of improved family circumstances.

During the report period, HFC provided a package of psychosocial support to over 500 orphan and vulnerable children (459 Addis Ababa and 75 Babile town, Eastern Hararge) a majority being affected by HIV/AIDS, who lost one or both parents and who live under the extreme poverty, with no regular income to survive or to attend school.



### Major Accomplishments:

- 1.9. *Monthly Cash Allowance for Food:* All 459 sponsored children / caregivers have received monthly food allowance (300 Birr per month), all payments made in the first week of the month.
- 1.10. *School Materials:* Provided school materials - school fees, school uniforms, pair of shoes, exercise books, pencil and pens to beneficiaries.
- 1.11. *Saturday Program:* One of the activities and strategies of providing psychosocial support to OVCs in the Sponsorship Program is the *Saturday program*. This program has improved opportunities for sponsored children to find spaces to play, chat, create good relationships with one another, and to nurture their talents.
- 1.12. *Medical Support:* HFC has established a medical fund for sponsored kids (in case of illness), which provides emergency medical support to stay healthy and stay in school. In addition, there is a new initiative to have each child's health status checked annually. The health assessment is comprised of history taking, general physical examination and laboratory examination. The history taking includes past medical history, family medical history and present medical history in accordance to each body system. The physical examination includes all parts of the body, and organ function. A laboratory examination is requested for each child to conduct this health check. This reporting period 348 children's (177 male, 171 female) health status was assessed. Check ups were performed at six health centres in six woredas in Gulele sub city. The assessment was performed on weekends by physicians, so that children could attend outside school hours.

- 1.13. *Letter Correspondence*: In order to maintain a strong relationship between OVCs and their sponsors letters were written twice an year, translated and sent to their sponsors based on the schedule
- 1.14. *Quarter review meeting with care givers*: Quarterly meetings with caregivers were held to discuss HFC's programs in general and the Sponsorship, Youth Enrichment Center and Scholarship projects in particular. During the meetings key issues affecting the community and the program.
- 1.15. *Community Bridge*: HFC believes and promotes the active participation of the community (including HFC's current beneficiaries, members of the community leaders, influential individuals, representatives of local government, youths, etc) to ensure transparency in financial utilisation, beneficiary selection among all stakeholders, improve quality of program design and deliverables, develop leadership, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership of the programs. HFC-AUS established the Community Bridge Committee which is comprised of community volunteers and guardians who plan and develop strategies and actions for community engagement and group leadership and mentorship; bridge timely and smooth communication and relation between sponsored families and HFC's program teams; identify assets and capacity of the community to strengthen HFC's mission and programs, and reduce technical and financial burden of the organisation.
- 1.16. *Provision of Basic Needs Items*: In this reporting period 405 children in the sponsorship program were provided 199 blankets and 206 bedsheets. Each child took either a blanket or bed sheets according to the choice of the caregivers.
- 1.17. *Food Support for HIV Positive Children*: In this reporting period, 50 HIV positive children from the sponsorship program have received supplementary food items to strengthen their immune systems from infections.
- 1.18. *Distribution of Sanitary Pad*: The primary purpose of provision of sanitary pads to participants, is to ensure female students who are in the sponsorship program not to miss school during their menstrual cycle. Similarly the Sponsorship program wants to stay in touch with the girls in the program and the provision of sanitary pad is a good opportunity to do that. Hence, the plan was to give 128 girls sanitary pad and soap monthly. However, the identified girls who are actually having their menstrual period is 98, and all of them were contacted via telephone to come and collect their sanitary pads.

### 3. Youth Enrichment Centre

The need for increased opportunities for children to learn and develop in safe environments outside of regular school hours is pressing. Without affordable, high-quality afterschool care unavailable to parents who work, many children must care for themselves or be supervised by older siblings, responsibilities that distract them from schoolwork. The Youth Enrichment Centre provides library/ reading, computer training, art class, spoken English class, and importantly, after school tutorial classes on key science subjects (math, physics, chemistry). A central aim of the tutorial classes is to help the target beneficiaries to improve their school performance.



#### Major Accomplishments:

- a. *After School Tutor Class:* HFC supported 41 students from Grade 8, 10 and 12 through after school tutor program to help them meet or exceed state and local standard core subjects (English grammar, spoken, Chemistry, physics, and mathematics). The program incorporates other topics and skills such as computer technology, art, and reading for pleasure. The tutor class was provided by three well-trained part-time teachers for a total of 6 hours a week. More than 85 percent of young people who attended the after school program were able to manage pass the national exams given at the respective students' class levels.
- b. *Library and ICT Facility:* Our mini library hosted on average 60 children and young people per day. Students were provided access to computer and internet to help learn basic computer, navigate the Internet, conduct research, write reports, and complete assignments using computer.
- c. *Nutritious Snacks:* were provided to all children attending the Youth Enrichment Centre after school.
- d. *Youth Action team:* The YAT members consist of 12 children both from the sponsorship program and the community. YAT members had three roles during the reporting period: 1) Advisory Role on program management and activities, 2) Action Role: facilitate specific youth-to youth activities (peer education, Saturday events, and summer youth engagement) and 3) Representational role: participates in various youth oriented and stakeholder meetings, conference and experience sharing events.

## 4. Scholarship Project

The Scholarship Project targets adolescents' aged between 18-24 years to support them to positively transition to further education or job readiness and be prepared for the world of work. In year 2014/15, HFC provided 68 OVCs, adolescents the opportunity to pursue vocational and higher education. HFC support covered monthly pocket money, tuition fees, education materials support.

### Major Accomplishments:

- 1.1. *Financial Support:* A total of 68 young people granted scholarship support, which included pocket money and set up costs.
- 1.2. *Student Graduation:* In this reporting period, 24 young people being graduated from higher education and certified from various technical and vocational training institutions and HFC-AUS provided financial support helping the graduation process.



### MEET TAMIRU

Meet Tamiru, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia's newest employee. Tamiru joined the HFC Sponsorship and Scholarship Program when his mother, the only bread winner became regularly ill and bedridden, which meant Tamiru was forced to support his family by shoe polishing and carrying heavy loads in his area. This work meant that he was regularly missing school and obtaining poor results.

Upon joining the HFC Sponsorship and Scholarship Program Tamiru's mother received direct health care provided by the home based care volunteers, which enabled her to regain her health and begin working again. Tamiru received school uniforms and materials, which his Mother had previously not been able to afford. He studied at the HFC Youth Centre after school

hours where he completed tutorial classes in his National Examination subjects. His high marks resulted a place at Mekele University where he studied Accounting. HFC provided university orientation training, transportation allowance and a kit of items for living away from home.

Tamiru graduated from Mekele University with a degree in Cooperative Accounting and a GPA of 3.2. In 2014 he was offered a position at the Ethiopian Commercial bank in their graduate program and has started his new career. Tamiru is now financially self-sufficient and provides mentoring for other young people in the program.

## HEALTH ACTIVITIES

HFC's health mission focuses on prevention of HIV/AIDS, care and support, home based care, promotion of safer sexual practice of adolescents, and promoting and supporting general safe and protected healthy practices for children and psychosocial support. It employs approaches combining both prevention and intervention. For the purpose of this report, HFC's health initiatives have been integrated from various projects.



*Sister Abeba visits the home of a home based care beneficiary in Gulele sub city.*

### 1. Home Based Care

HFC provided care and support for 70 Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Gulele sub-city, who were found critically sick (bed ridden), many in locked and isolated rooms. Most of these persons experienced some form of stigma and discrimination by close family members and or from neighbourhood members. The project was designed to lift the burden of care away from children in our programs so that they can focus on their education.

### Major Accomplishments:

- 1.1 *Conducted Training:* A three-day training was conducted to equip ten volunteers on community engagement, psychosocial support, stigma reduction, etc.
- 1.2 *Psychosocial Support:* during the report period 100 PLWAs received counselling, ongoing care and treatment.
- 1.3 *Material Support:* Nearly 100 PLWAs were supported with supplementary food and nutrition, and bed sheets, and health care supplies.
- 1.4 *Community Discussions:* Community discussions on stigma prevention were conducted with individuals, families and neighbourhoods.
- 1.5 *Referral Mechanism:* Established informal referral network with health clinics, police office and support community groups to maximize supports for the target beneficiaries.
- 1.6 *Monthly Meetings:* Ten Community Volunteer Care Givers has held monthly meetings where experience shared each other, updates given, issues tracked from regular field works.

## 2. Psychosocial Support including Life skill Training (formerly LTAS)

Life skills are behaviors that enable individuals to adapt to and deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life. There are many such skills, but core life skills include the ability to and deal with the demands and challenges of life. In Ethiopia and around the world life skills education programs that include sexual and reproductive health information have proven to be effective in delaying the start of sexual activity among young people, and among sexually experienced youth, in increasing the use of condoms and decreasing the number of sexual partners.

At HFC the program Let's Talk About Sex had been running with great success for many years at HFC Ethiopia and then at HFC Australia. In the last year the program had been under review while the psychosocial needs of the children in the HFC programs were assessed and new staff hired after the departure of the previous employees. The newly appointed counsellor spent the first quarter of the new operating agreement ensuring the psychosocial needs of the children were met and in the second quarter began the implementation of the Life Skills based SRH health activities and improved the home to home visits conducted by the two home assessors.

### Major Accomplishments:

- 1.1 *Training:* The counsellor selected the participants who had not taking life skill training recently from the documents left by the former LTAS team. The counsellor gave priority to those who had low academic performance in the previous year.
- 1.2 *One on One Counselling:* In this reporting period children were provided counselling services. Many received counselling because of their low

academic performance and others because of concern reported by their caregivers. All children received snacks during counselling sessions.

1.3 *Home Assessment*: Two home assessors conducted regular home visit to ensure the well being of OVC's.

## LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

HFC has been focussing its strategic efforts to develop and integrate sustainable developmental and livelihood initiatives and programs across the organisations. Next project year we will expand our livelihood activities across our child focused activities but for this reporting period our key intervention in the livelihood area was the Women and Child Livelihood Program.



*Two family members watch on at the annual awards ceremony at the end of the school year.*

### 1. Women and Child Livelihood Project

This project aims to support returnees and their families in Addis Ketema sub-city to develop alternative livelihoods. The major objectives are to improve economic and social opportunities for 300 returnees young women, returned from Arab countries; to reduce the psychological problems of target women through counselling and reintegration services; to strengthen 15 community based organisations to provide community based support for at risk young women and returnees.

## Major Accomplishments:

- 1.1 *Establishment of SHGs*: 96 women organised in 7 SHGs
- 1.2 *Group Savings*: Mature groups saving on average 10-20 ETB per person per week in the 10 months since initiation: Average capital of 13,300.00 ETB and *immature groups saving on average 5-10 ETB per person per week in the 4-6 months since initiation: Average capital of 6.000.00 ETB*
- 1.3 *Cluster Level Association*: 1 Cluster Level Association started
- 1.4 *Training on By Laws*: 96 women in SHGs participated in training on SHG by-laws development including how to mainstream returnee issues.
- 1.5 *Recruitment of VTEC Beneficiaries*: 50 returnees grouped and enrolled in VTEC in 3 disciplines according to the needs of the market, individual interests and government priority sectors Gypsum (construction sector), Food preparation (services sector), Tailoring (manufacturing sector)
- 1.6 *Access to Loans*: HFC organized meetings for at risk women and stakeholders to access government loans for SME; 60 attended from 5 Government offices and 12 Banks and financial institutions
- 1.7 *Business & Entrepreneurship training*: 135 women attended Business & Entrepreneurship training (six sessions) and have finalized their business plans to start their own business
- 1.8 *Psychosocial Support*: Returnee 10 week Group Therapy completed, Creative Therapy & life skill trainings have been given to participants. 113 one-one counseling sessions hosted
- 1.9 *Indian Study Tour*: HFC completed the first component of its Experience Sharing program with a delegation of senior government officials and leading NGOs in the field of anti-trafficking to learn from Indian best practice
- 1.10 *Local Experience Sharing*: 5 returnees shared experiences at public events. 4 experience sharing visits hosted with returnee women and CBOs in Addis Ketema and CLA visit in Jimma

“We are very happy. There are a lot of changes we have witnessed already. Hopefully history will be changed in the future. We feel very positive – especially today”.  
- Self Help Group Member

## PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM



*Arsema & Rahel, two beneficiaries doing their homework at our Youth Centre in Gulele, Addis.*

### **1. HFC-OSSA Project: Babile Sponsorship in Oromia Region**

In 2013 HFC entered a two years project agreement with the Organization for Social Service on AIDS (OSSA) to help HIV/AIDS affected OVC, including their caregivers, in Babile town, located in Eastern Harrarge, to become self-sufficient and active members of their communities.

Babile district is one of 19 districts found in Eastern Harrarge Zone, Oromiya's with a total population estimated at 150,000. HFC-OSSA project works in two kebele of Babile, with particular focus on the peripheral areas.

The aim of this partnership program is to address the needs of 55 OVC (and their care givers) in the first year and 75 children in the second year an integrated program which provides child sponsorship and an opportunity for caregivers and beneficiaries to become self-sufficient by establishing self-help groups having an IGA component in the program. This increases caregivers income thus enabling the caregivers to better support their children. The partnership agreement is for two years from July 2013 to June 2015 (project budget amount approximately 900,000 birr for the term).

**Result One: OVCs secured basic needs (food allowance, medical cost, education materials)**

- Recruited 25 new OVCs. The selection was made in collaboration with the Woreda Women and Child office and other community and government bodies.
- Monthly sponsorship financial support (birr 300/ month) has given to 75 OVCs plus additional 150 birr for nutritional support for HIV positive children.
- Provided basic school material support to help OVCs attend school.
- Additional school materials (reference books) were purchased and provided to OVCs with special need of academic support.
- Provided 250 birr to each OVC through annual clothing scheme.
- Monthly transport allowance (birr 150/ month) has given to ten community volunteers.
- Conducted child engaging holiday event where targeted children travelled to recreational places;
- Medical refunds made to OVCs who had received medical treatment and check-up (500 birr per child).

**Result Two: Ensuring youth participation through and tutorial classes and the establishment of YAT (Youth Action Team)**

- Organise and conduct training to YAT leadership youth participation and leadership with 10 young people form the community.
- Facilitate and conduct quarterly review meeting of YAT leadership team.
- Provided after school tutorial service to 72 children in grades 8,10, 12 in preparation for national exams.

**Result Three: Improved livelihoods of families' / guardians' of OVCs and increase Community Participation for Phase out of Project**

- Organising basic training for 10 members of Community Bridge on community project management.
- Conducted coffee ceremony discussion with member of communities (CBOs) and stakeholders to discuss and raise awareness about OVCs in Babile town where the meetings enabled to initiate community participation in mitigating problems associated with OVCs and promoted community role fostering OVCs.
- Train women in basic issue and subject mater of cooperative society and leadership and basic business skill training.
- Provision of business start up capital for SHG and follow up to support business development.

## 1. Major challenges and action taken and lessons learned

- Mobility of beneficiaries during the project period.
- Increasing demand for new intervention and services, which were not originally planned.

### Action Taken and Lessons Learned

- HFC mobilised adequate resources to rent and sustain two buildings/ compounds to run the education programs at St Yared School;
- HFC took proactive measures to recruit well-trained and experienced staff and deployed international volunteers to provide short-term services in those times when the technical skills were lacking; and
- Integrated our services and programs to increase benefits to beneficiaries and to ensure efficiency of the programs.

## BAHIR ZAF - AN INNOVATIVE TRAINING RESTAURANT



*The Bahir Zaf logo, along with two dishes- Nile Perch with Ratatouille (top) and Lamb Kofta with Berbere Yoghurt Sauce.*

At the beginning of the reporting period, Hope for Children partnered with local business Walkan Foods to open an exciting new social enterprise restaurant project in Addis Ababa. 'Bahir Zaf' is a local training restaurant, taking some of Addis Ababa's most disadvantaged youth, and putting them through 12 months of on-the-job training in hygiene, food preparation, customer service and English. After one year of training and practical experience in a fully operating restaurant, students are supported to find work in Ethiopia's booming hospitality industry. Based on a sustainable business model, 100% of profits will be directed back into training or community projects across the country. In the local Amharic language, 'Bahir Zaf' means eucalyptus tree. The *Hope for Children* community in Ethiopia chose the name Bahir Zaf (literally "ocean tree") because the eucalyptus is a local symbol of international friendship.

Bahir Zaf is the seventh restaurant to open as part of the Tree Alliance group ([tree-alliance.org](http://tree-alliance.org)), and the first restaurant of this group to open its doors in Africa. Tree Alliance is a social enterprise network headquartered in Cambodia, with six restaurants in four countries in South East Asia, including the internationally renowned 'Friends International'.

Tree Alliance's vision is to empower the most disadvantaged youth in practical hospitality skills to make them highly employable in this industry.

Walkan Foods Addis secured funding of USD \$205,000 from Rotary International to be administered by Rotary Finot, the Ethiopian Rotary Club. HFC and Bahir Zaf have forged a strong working relationship with both Rotary International and Rotary Finot.

### Activities conducted throughout reporting period:

- Restaurant site leased in Hiya Hulet area in Addis Ababa
- Extensive renovation undertaken throughout the site, including professional kitchen designed and renovated, and garage converted into training classroom
- 12 Ethiopian staff recruited, including: Project Manager, Solomon Nigussie who comes with 18 years experience in 5 star hotels, Head Chef, Dawit Shiburu who is a professional training chef, Restaurant Manager, Daniel Alemayehu, who's background includes Food and Beverage Director.
- Manipulated the Tree Alliance training technique to be suitable for Ethiopia
- Sourced all furniture from locally made manufacturers and all contracting labour was locally sourced
- Second hand equipment for kitchen purchased and installed
- Hosted the first visit from the Tree Alliance Head Office team in May
- Menu drafting and product sourcing undertaken
- Relationship building with local businesses, including with artwork supplier established and neighbouring restaurants and hotels
- Working towards the Ethiopian Higher Hotel and Restaurant Compliance Certificate
- Relationship building with other NGOs including Retrak, attending Rotary meetings and getting the know the new president of Rotary Finot

## Conclusion

The 2014/2015 year has been a milestone year for Hope for Children Australia. We continue to impact the lives of 1800 beneficiaries and build community empowerment among some of the most vulnerable populations in Ethiopia. We have signed our third operating agreement with the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development and our other Addis Ababa City Administration signatories. However, it has not been a year without challenges, and there have been number of lessons learnt. We look forward to 2015/2016 and continuing to work with the Charities and Societies Agency, our Addis Ababa City administration signatories, the communities located in Yeka, Gulele and Addis Ketema sub cities and the women, children and families in our programs and we thank all of these partners for their continuing support.

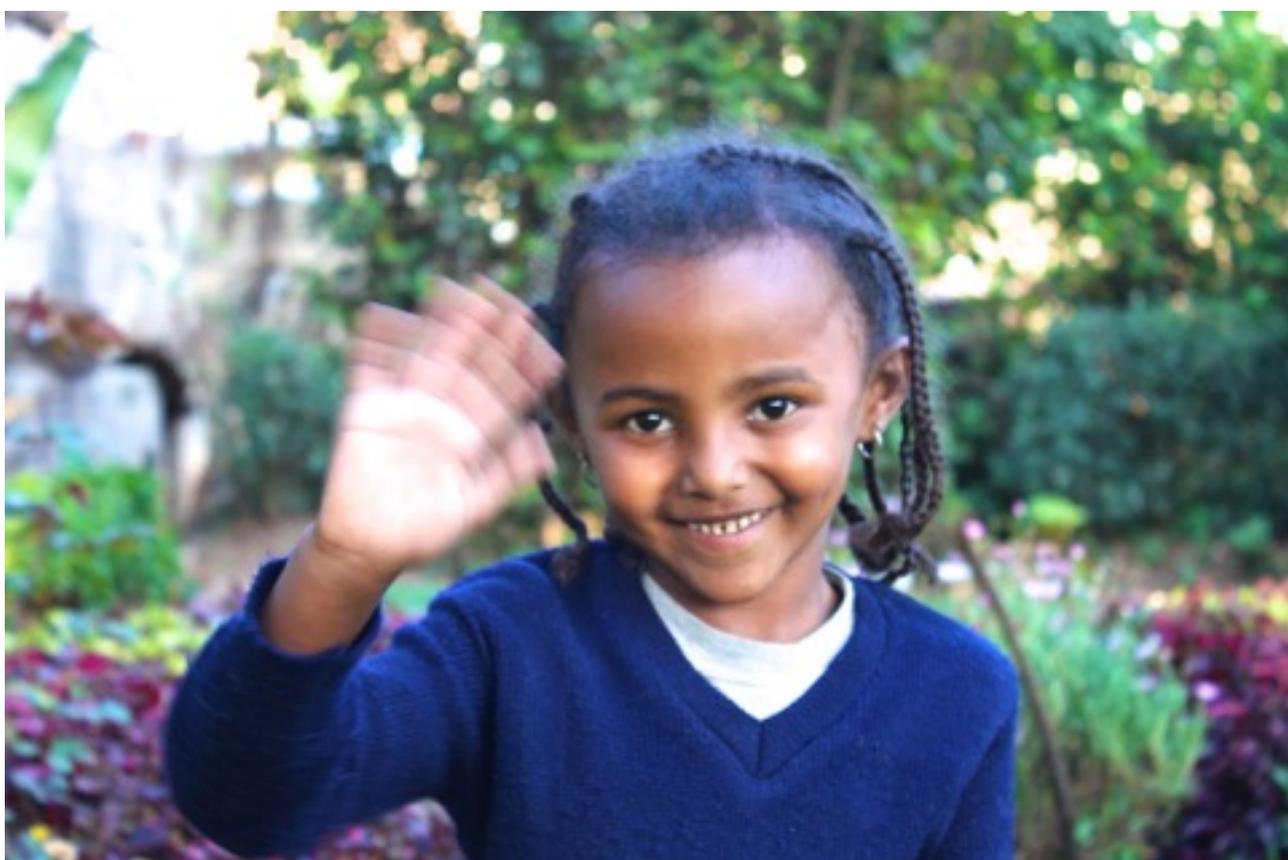
Our work would not be possible without the support of our passionate and dedicated volunteer base in both Australia and Ethiopia. To these individuals, we are incredibly grateful for your time.

Program funding is vital for success - and this Financial Year we received funds from generous individuals, corporates and institutions. Donations over \$20,000 included:

- The Minderoo Foundation
- The Freedom Fund
- Rotary International (implemented by Rotary Finot in Ethiopia)
- The Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa
- Hope for Children Fund USA
- The Bailey Family Trust

We look forward to continuing a productive and transparent relationship with our key donors over the next Financial Year.





## CONTACT US

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