

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Hope for
Children

Hope For Children Australia LTD
ABN: 73 109 038 600

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INTRODUCTION

Our work in 2024–2025

The annual report presents the programs of HFC and key accomplishments, changes, and challenges during the 2024–2025 period. The report has been prepared in compliance with ACFID requirements.

Our Vision



The world in which vulnerable communities have the capacity and resources to participate fully in creating meaningful solutions for their lives.

To develop replicable models of success for dissemination across-communities in need.

Our Mission



HFC works with vulnerable communities in the areas of health, education and livelihoods.

To foster community-based participation, resilience and creative problem-solving to address current challenges with sustainable solutions.

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 in building trust with our stakeholders by operating with accountability and transparency.

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.

Partnering with HFC Ethiopia, HFC funded the delivery of a range of programs in Addis Ababa, eastern Ethiopia for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) particularly those impacted by HIV/AIDS. These programs included providing free quality education - School of St Yared, Self-Help Groups, a family planning, sexual and reproductive health program for young people and their families, skills training for HFC community members.

2004

HFC registered in Australia as a not-for-profit company with the objective of carrying on work in Ethiopia in the areas of health, education and training, livelihoods and raising funds for these purposes.

2009

HFC gained OAGDS from the ATO and AusAid, which gave it tax deductibility status in Australia allowing it to increase its fundraising efforts for Ethiopia.

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.

2021

In November 2021 HFC has become a Full Member and signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

A Message from HFC Chair, Marcelle Anderson

In these uncertain times, it is reassuring to report that 2025 has been a successful year for Hope for Children.

Over 80 of our graduates are continuing their education across a broad range of degree programmes, with many undertaking dual degrees. This is a remarkable achievement by any measure.

St Yared's remains one of the few schools with more than one student passing the national university entrance exam.

In fact at St Yared's most of our student achieve this benchmark. The students' determination and the support from our dedicated staff and community, together with the inspiring example of our graduates underpin this culture of achievement.

This year has brought many challenges globally, and in this environment the Board is assessing our programmes and performance to ensure we remain aligned with our core goals, values and long-term vision. This review will focus on innovation, creativity and resourcefulness to underpin our commitment to continually improve the opportunities to the evolving challenges faced by our students, graduates, their families and our community.

None of this would be possible without the enduring support from our members. Your support underpins the extraordinary success of our students, and provides pathways to better lives for their families. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

The Board would like to acknowledge the tireless work of our only employee Anna Wolak, whose dedication knows no bounds

As the new year approaches, we send our best wishes for a joyful Christmas and for health and happiness in 2026.

A Message from the Founder, Jacqui Gilmour

This year was particularly meaningful for me. For the first time since the pandemic, I was able to return to Ethiopia. As with my previous visits to Addis Ababa, the trip came with a mix of emotions—anticipation, excitement, uncertainty, and at times frustration. Most importantly, however, reconnecting with our students, graduates, their families, and our dedicated staff reaffirmed why this work matters. Seeing firsthand how your support, combined with our collective efforts, continues to create real and lasting impact gives me deep hope and confidence that together we are opening pathways to a better future—opportunities that would otherwise remain out of reach.

It is an immense pleasure to talk to our students. Having one-on-one conversations is the most motivating and inspiring aspect of my work. I still vividly remember the day I met many of them for the first time—most were much smaller for their age, undernourished but determined to succeed. Years later, they now tell me how they will become engineers, lawyers, nurses, cardiac surgeons, architects, psychologists—all aiming to carry the values learned at St. Yared's and change the lives of their communities and country.

I am incredibly proud of every single student for overcoming these uncertain and harsh times for their families and community. Our students have proven to be a driving force in planning and finding solutions, even for challenges far greater than themselves.

With all that I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your unwavering support and generosity. Your commitment makes a real difference, not just in the daily lives of our students, but in the hope and opportunities you foster for their futures. It is your ongoing kindness and belief in our mission that empowers these children to dream bigger and work harder, knowing there is someone in their corner cheering them on. We are truly grateful for your continued partnership and support of our work.

OUR PROGRAMS

The School of St Yared: Empowering Future Leaders



Access to Quality Education

The School of St Yared continue providing access to quality education for some of the poorest yet brightest children in Addis Ababa. By focusing on these remarkable students, the school aims to empower them to rise above poverty and become future leaders within their communities and beyond.

'When my class is small and my teacher has time to really know me, learning feels completely different. I'm not afraid to ask questions, because I know my teacher is listening and wants to help me understand. They notice the things I'm good at, but they also see where I struggle—and they find ways to explain things that make sense to me. It feels like my voice matters. Because of this, I'm more confident, more curious, and driven to succeed. Having a teacher who focuses on me as a person doesn't just help me learn better—it makes me believe that I can achieve something bigger, for myself and for my family'
Abigiya Enbakom, Y10 .

'Walking into the school of St Yared for the first time felt like stepping into another world. The teachers were as friendly and patient as anyone could hope for. They didn't just teach, they noticed. They saw when I was confused, when I hesitated, when I felt lost. Instead of letting me slip behind, they sat with me, explained things again, encouraged me in ways I had never experienced before. Their support became one of the main reasons I believe I can do it too. They made me feel I belonged, like I had the ability to succeed if I kept trying.' **Sentayhu Semenh, Y12**

Supporting Resilient Youth

At the core of the school's mission is a program designed to support the needs of young people. These students exhibit remarkable resilience, even if they sometimes struggle to recognise their own ability to change their circumstances and those of the people around them.

Overcoming Academic Challenges

This academic year has brought a fresh wave of difficulties for the School of St Yared community. The Government's development plans had a profound effect, causing significant disruption for many school families. Virtually overnight, families lost the little they possessed and were forced to relocate to the outskirts of Addis Ababa, joining thousands of other displaced people. This upheaval was not only a loss of their homes, but also students who were affected by these events understandably needed substantial support and reassurance to maintain their motivation and engagement in their studies. The emotional and practical challenges they faced required ongoing care and encouragement from the school community. A painful separation from community support networks and connections, which proved to be especially devastating.

My family talks about St Yared's every evening. We give our thanks for the food we are about to have and for the school , we pray for Mr Yared and Ms Jacqui. There are no words to explain what the school means to my family. It is way beyond education, it's a hope , it's a bright light in a darkness. **Kidist Tesfaw, Y12**

Despite these considerable hardships, the students at the School of St Yared have continued to display unwavering determination. Their resilience has shone through, resulting in excellent academic outcomes. Through their perseverance, the students have enabled the school to uphold its longstanding tradition of outstanding academic achievements.

Innovative ICT Program

The ICT program continuous offering our students opportunity to explore a world of knowledge far beyond their classrooms. With access to variety of educational platforms and on-line resources they can fully participate in a rapidly changing world.

This year ICT program focused on applied research. Students took their time to explore variety of question and concepts , they then gather information, explore different possibilities and presented the outcomes to their peers.

Our students learn how to think creatively, communicate their thoughts clearly, and approach challenges with confidence.



Feeding Program

As is often the case with development work, activities surrounding it naturally change and evolve to address the most pressing needs of its beneficiaries. Educating children has always been our priority as a pathway to a better and more stable future. However, for education to flourish, all the basic needs of a child must be met. Our school feeding programme is much more than a means of providing nourishment. It represents a cornerstone of educational and social development, ensuring not only the physical well-being of children but also their intellectual growth and ability to thrive in society. Crucially, the simple fact of having a well-balanced meal every day gives our students hope, strength and courage to face challenges often far greater than them.



Henok Birhanu, Y12- " I got number 1 rank, and I brought 94.2. I am always thankful for everything which is the school is giving us, but the food means a lot to me. My father is very old, and he used to make money and feed us but he can't, so this responsibility falls on to my mother and she is struggling to feed all of us (my brothers and sister). I am always happy and wished that my brothers could come and eat the good food here we have in the school. I am very happy, and I want to work very hard to make HFC proud. '



Holistic Support for Student Wellbeing - Integrating Medical Care into Education

The ability to provide quality education often hinges on factors beyond mere access to schools and resources. Among the most critical of these factors is the health and wellbeing of our students and our staff. Physical health is an essential determinant of a student's ability to learn. Malnutrition, infectious diseases, and chronic health conditions can severely limit cognitive development, concentration, and attendance. Hunger and even minor but on-going medical issues can undermine a student's ability to focus and retain information. In our school community, where poverty and insecurity are still pervasive, the mental strain on children can be immense. Ensuring students' wellbeing through counselling and supportive school environment can drastically improve both academic performance and overall well-being.

With the city undergoing intensive urban development, some students now reside more than 40 kilometres away from the school. Our school nurse, Sr Abeba, has been working tirelessly to ensure that these impacted students not only remain at school but also stay connected and engaged with their peers and teachers. We are incredibly proud of every single student for overcoming this uncertain and challenging period for their families and community.



Integrating medical care into the educational system can bring immediate and long-term benefits. Our school-based health programs that provide vaccinations, regular health checkups, counselling and nutritional support have proven effective in improving attendance, academic performance and overall wellbeing of our students and their families.

Keeping connected - Regular home visits

During this year, we carried out **over 40 home visits**. These visits gave us a perfect opportunity to connect with the children and their families. We noticed a few hygiene challenges, and during our sessions we gently talked about ways to stay clean, healthy, and keep their homes and surroundings tidy. We shared simple, practical tips that families can easily follow.

We also encouraged the children to take pride in their learning—by completing homework on time, practising good study habits, and helping out at home when they can. Together, we discussed how creating morning routines can help them arrive at school on time, and we introduced a study and homework schedule to support them in managing their time well.

During our visits, we also spoke with parents about how they can help prevent infectious diseases at home and shared basic first aid principles that are useful for everyday situations.

We held a few video call meetings with some parents. The key points from the discussion included:

- the school uniform requirements
- the importance of regular school attendance, encouraging all parents to make sure their children do not miss school unless there is a valid reason

We also reminded parents that consistent effort in academics should be a main focus for the students

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Providing quality education to young people in our care is vital to breaking cycles of poverty and building stronger, more resilient communities. For many of them, access to a safe classroom, trained teachers, and essential learning materials opens the door to opportunities that would otherwise remain out of reach. We know very well, that the impact of educating even one child extends far beyond the individual: a well-educated child often becomes a source of knowledge, stability, and inspiration for their entire family, helping parents make informed decisions and supporting younger siblings on their own learning journeys. As these children grow, they bring new skills and perspectives back to their communities—strengthening local economies, promoting healthier practices, and becoming role models who show others what is possible. By investing in equitable learning today, we help ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for Ethiopia—one in which every child has the chance to uplift not only their own life, but the lives of many around them.

THE REAL IMPACT

Reflections of beneficiaries

Dawit Amare, a Year 9 student, shares his experience in the computer lab: "The computer room is a quiet place for me even if other students are there. My thoughts are always running fast like a racing car, from one idea to the next. But when I sit in front of the computer, something changes. The screen lights up and the world slows down. Typing calms me. The computer is not just a machine for me; it helps me to relax, think, and organise my thoughts so I can create."

" You didn't feed my stomach, you fed my courage, my hope and my future. Thank you from my heart." Kalkidan Asegedew, Y11, reflecting on importance of the feeding program. Further she said "My mother is asthmatic, and she is old. She continues to sell vegetable on the street to buy food but there is never enough. I am afraid that I will offend my mum asking for more food, so I live the house with a big hug and kiss because I know I will eat at St Yared's and I feel very happy and energetic. I thank you again from the bottom of my heart. I am smart and I am trying my best to get the top one in my academic performance. I got 3rd in my class last semester and my average was 88.7%. I am working to get 1st, and I know I can."

"Dear Jacqui, As I reflect on my journey at St Yared, I'm reminded that true leadership is not only measured by the goals but by the lives touched and transformed along the way. In this sense, your vision has been like a steady light guiding, inspiring and creating a path where once there was none.

For me, the opportunities I now hold in my hands are not just steps forward, but seeds planted long ago through your dedication and belief in young people like me.

I carry them with reverence, knowing there are part of something much bigger than myself, a story of hope, resilience, and possibilities that you have helped to write.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for everything you do, not only for me but for countless others. Your impact is immeasurable, and I hope that through me efforts and achievements, I can , in my own way, reflect the light you have so generously shared."

Mikiyas Tadesse, Y 11 student

"From the first day I joined the school, I realised that this was not only a place of learning but also a community of care and endless opportunities. St Yared's is a unique place, it's a family. The teachers , mentors and staff shaped me in ways that continue to influence who I am today and all me decisions are guided by installed values of discipline, responsibility and service." Kirubel Moges SSY graduate

PROJECT OUTCOMES



SSY ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENT REACH & IMPACT



116
students supported
54 boys
62 girls

- **816** direct beneficiaries
- **4,180** indirect beneficiaries

NUTRITION & WELL-BEING

- **31,375** nutritious meals served
- **40,218** healthy snacks distributed
- 6-week summer program with cooked lunch provided daily



LEARNING & ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- **96.6 %** overall attendance
- **78.5 %** average student results
- **14** students scored above 92 %
- **12** top-performing students received mini notebook computers for excellence in results and attitude
- Daily access to after-school computer lab activities and tutorials



ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES & LEARNING MATERIALS

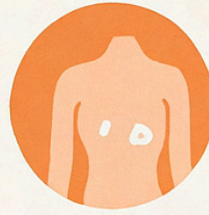
- All students received a full school uniform, including:
 - School bag
 - Pair of leather shoes

- HIV positive students receive additional food support
- All staff are provided with a cooked lunch daily
- 5 school families receive a monthly food support

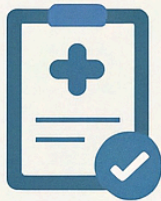
PROJECT OUTCOMES



**ALL STUDENTS
HAD DAILY
ACCESS TO
MEDICAL CARE**



**60 GIRLS
VACCINATED
AGAINST
CERVICAL CANCER**



**ALL STUDENTS
HAD THEIR ANNUAL
COMPLETE
HEALTH CHECK-UP**



**30 FOLLOW-UP
APPOINTMENTS**
MAINLY FUNGAL
INFECTIONS AND
PARASITE INFECTIONS



**ALL STUDENTS –
DAILY PERSONAL
HYGIENE CHECKS**



**10 HEALTH
EDUCATION
SESSIONS**

PERSONAL HYGIENE,
HEALTHY EATING HAB-
ITS, COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE AND
PREVENTIVE MEASURES,
FIRST AID TRAINING



**ALL STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN
THE IN-HOUSE
DEVELOPED**

**AGE-APPROPRIATE SEX EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS**

PUBERTY, REPRODUCTION, HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS, CONSENT, AND
THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL RESPECT



**ALL STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN
DAILY SESSIONS
ON WELLBEING**

DURING THE SUMMER
BREAK



**ALL FEMALE
STUDENTS RECEIVED
SANITARY PADS**



**10 STUDENTS
RECEIVED NEW
GLASSES**



**4 SESSIONS ON
PARENTING SKILLS,
FAMILY PLANNING,
HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS
WERE OFFERED TO
SCHOOL PARENTS**

Following the Journey of the 85 SSY Graduates

Pathways After Graduation

- **82 out of 85 graduates** are currently enrolled in higher education
- **23% of graduates** are completing **double majors or dual degrees**

Community Engagement & Leadership

- Graduates **actively contributed to their communities**, volunteering significant time to support local initiatives
- SSY alumni are **highly regarded** by community members and respected by local authorities
- Many SSY graduates dedicated time to tutoring younger SSY students, contributing to a strong culture of peer support

Employment Outcomes

- **High employability rate** among SSY graduates
- Employers report that SSY alumni demonstrate **strong work ethic, discipline, and leadership qualities**
- Many graduates who gained employment were **promoted quickly into senior or supervisory roles**, often within a short period

Neima Shemsu joined our KG as part of our 2nd intake of students. From the very beginning, she stood out as a diligent, focused, and respectful student—well-liked by both peers and teachers. As she progressed through her schooling, Neima consistently excelled academically, often ranking among the top performers in her class.

Today, Neima is not only studying **Mechanical Engineering at Addis Ababa University**, but she is also undertaking a **Financial Accounting course at CPU College**. Balancing two demanding study programs is challenging enough, yet Neima manages this while overcoming daily transport difficulties. Despite these obstacles, she continues to achieve outstanding results in all her subjects.

Neima approaches everything she does with grace, courage, and an unwavering hunger for knowledge. **She is living proof that hard work, opportunity, and the right support can open many doors.**



Sena Hailu began his journey with us in KG as part of our very first intake of students. Today, he is in his **second year of studying Pharmacy at Yenet College**—a remarkable milestone that reflects his perseverance, discipline, and the transformative power of a quality education.

From his earliest days in our classrooms, Sena showed a genuine commitment to learning and a consistently kind heart. Though he worked hard for his grades, he was often described as a role model for his behaviour, respect for others, and willingness to help. His teachers remember him not only for his effort but for his compassion and quiet leadership.

Seeing a child from our school now pursuing medical profession is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

Yosef Lakachew started at The School of St Yared as part of the 1st kindergarten intake. Today, Yosef is pursuing **degree in Architecture and Marketing**, combining creativity and strategy in a unique way. Alongside his studies, he does advertising for real estate agencies, and he has even stepped into the world of modeling—showcasing his confidence and versatility.

Beyond his academic and professional life, Yosef is also a devoted member of his church, serving faithfully in the choir. His love for music and worship reflects his humble spirit and commitment to giving back to his community.



Where are they now ?

OUR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS



Wholistic Transformation Resource Centre

HFC has partnered up with WTRC to deliver two main programs based in Philippines. The Wholistic Transformation Resource Centre or WTRC is a not for profit organisation based in Manila, Philippines, with a large network of microfinance and development organisations. WTRC aims to build an awareness of the effectiveness of wholistic and transformational entrepreneurial initiatives combined with poverty alleviation initiatives by partnering with local organisations to pilot and implement pioneering community development programs.

School by the Roadside Project

This program helps the poorest children in the cities of Pasay and Manila, particularly those from street-dwelling families. The project aims to provide these children with functional literacy education to increase their potential to become productive and valuable members of society.

Additionally, every child attending receives a nutritious meal to ensure their wellbeing and readiness to learn. Through weekly sessions the project also addresses basic hygiene techniques, importance of nutrition and overall wellbeing.

In March 2025 a new customized mobile school was inaugurated and increasing the number of vehicles to three.

In the reporting period the project supported 628 street children, exceeding the total number of participants in the pilot year which is 405.

The Project also provides an age-appropriate awareness workshop about online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) to all students attending their program.

Shechem Children's Home Facilities

Shechem Children's Home acts as a temporary home for newly rescued OSAEC survivors, as well as an assessment facility where the children receive specialized psychological assessments and psychosocial support. To enhance a positive healing and recovery children will have access to a dedicated sensory room equipped with sensory tools. Crucial part of the project is capacity-building of Shechem staff on Sensory Room concept/theory, application and use.

To date, **Shechem has served 109 children as of June 2025 with an average of 12-16 children at a time.**

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

We love Visitors

August was very busy with visitors.

In the second week of August, we warmly welcomed **Jacqui Gilmour and Anna Wolak** back to Ethiopia. This was their first visit since the pandemic, and understandably, everyone was very excited. After landing at 7am, they dropped off their luggage, were picked up by Yared, and arrived at the office few hours later for a moving coffee ceremony. A few cups of coffee—and some tears—later, they already were meeting students, graduates, parents, and community members.

The two weeks that followed went by quickly, filled with meetings, rich discussions, brainstorming sessions, workshops, and visits to government offices.



Towards the end of Jacqui and Anna's visit, we welcomed two very special guests — **Paul Tye and Claire Manera** from **Australian Doctors for Africa**, who joined us for a morning visit.

Paul has been a long-term friend of HFC, and during this visit he was **representing the Richard Lockwood Foundation**, which very generously supports the school project.

Both Claire and Paul had many questions, all of which were gladly answered by our staff and students.



Special Recognition

We are delighted with the achievements of the third graduating class of St Yared's.s. On 6 August 2024, **seventeen SSY students** came together to celebrate the completion of their secondary schooling.

When the national university entrance exam results were released in September, our graduates performed exceptionally well. **Sixteen students** secured university placement—an impressive achievement given that the national pass rate is just **8.4%**.

Out of nearly **600,000 students** who sat the exam, **only 48,929 passed**, and almost half of all schools recorded no passes at all. This makes our students' success even more inspiring, and we warmly congratulate each of them.

As in the previous years, university placements—including location and degree program—are assigned by the Government based on exam results and available spaces.



Awards and Achievements

We are particularly proud of our **Grade 11 students** this year, with three female students achieving an **outstanding 99% in all their subjects**. In recognition of their remarkable performance—and their strong commitment to excellence, perseverance, and disciplined study habits—**Halina Kassahun, Rediet Yihayse, and Yemserache Cheru** were nominated as youth ambassadors by the local government. Despite their demanding schedules, all three still make time to support their younger peers in maths, physics, and social science. Impressively, the entire year group has shown significant improvement in their academic performance, creating what we like to call a perfect ripple effect.



We're excited to share that our organization recently received a special commendation and award from the Mayor of Addis Ababa, recognising the positive work we're doing in the community. This acknowledgement reflects the hard work of our staff, the dedication of our students, and the strong partnerships that continue to strengthen our impact. We're also especially proud of **Sr Abeba**, our dedicated school nurse, who was individually recognised for her ongoing contribution to community health.



To make the moment even more special, Sr Abeba was invited to the royal palace for the award presentation. It was a truly memorable experience and a well-deserved recognition of her hard work and dedication. **Congratulations, Sr Abeba — we're all so proud of you!**



Yohannes Habetamu, a Year 11 student, is not only a strong academic performer—**achieving 85% across all subjects—but also an outstanding young athlete**. He plays soccer both for the school and in the Addis Ababa City League, 3rd Division. Recently, he was honoured with the High Performer Player Award by the Addis Ababa City Administration Sport Club, a recognition given to the most disciplined and skilful young athletes in the city. This achievement reflects his passion, discipline, and determination both on and off the field. His coach, Ermiyas Tesfaye, expressed immense pride in his progress and believes that, with the right support, Yohannes has the potential to go even further.

He is currently working to secure a soccer scholarship for him at a Ugandan soccer academy. Before applying, Yohannes must successfully complete Grade 12 and sit for the national examination.

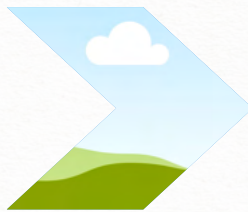
Environmentally friendly initiatives

During her visit, Jacqui Gilmour introduced the SSY students to an important environmental initiative known as the rocket stove. She highlighted the importance of clean air and the safety risks associated with cooking indoors in small, enclosed spaces using traditional stoves. Jacqui explained how the rocket stove's simple design significantly reduces smoke and pollution while using far less firewood, and she encouraged students to build the stoves themselves, empowering them with practical, hands-on skills.



During the same session, students were also introduced to simple methods of cost control and budgeting, helping them understand how thoughtful planning and small savings can make a meaningful difference in everyday life.

There was, however, a significant challenge: the stove was too heavy to be moved. Considering that many families live and cook in a single room, this issue needed an immediate solution. Thanks to a few very clever students, a quick modification was made by adding a movable platform underneath, allowing the stove to be shifted easily. With this practical improvement, the rocket stove design became fully functional and better suited to the needs of the community.



We are also strengthening sustainable food production through our on-site kitchen garden. This initiative not only provides access to fresh, nutritious produce, but also serves as a hands-on learning environment where students can develop skills in sustainable agriculture, soil management, and water conservation. The garden is supported by complementary environmental practices, including composting organic waste to enrich the soil, exploring biogas solutions to reduce reliance on traditional fuels, and capturing rainwater to maximise water efficiency in a resource-constrained environment.

By fostering these practical, environmentally conscious practices, we aim to inspire long-term behavioural change and promote local solutions that support healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities.



CHALLENGES

During this reporting period, there were no new obstacles or significant interruptions. However, Ethiopia continues to grapple with a severe food shortage crisis driven by prolonged drought, conflict, and economic instability. At the same time, the cost of living continues to rise sharply, meaning that the already limited income most families earn has been stretched to the point of almost disappearing. These combined pressures have contributed to widespread food insecurity across the country. Although the national inflation rate has steadily decreased over the year, this has not translated into lower prices. Fuel shortage and rising fuel costs have further contributed to unpredictable price fluctuations for basic necessities, making financial planning and accurate budgeting challenging.

This economic instability has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities, including the families we work with.

Challenges Faced During the Reporting Period

- **Ongoing food shortages** among school families. This year, we extended our support beyond the regular school feeding program to include food assistance during school holidays.
- **Short supply of certain foods.** Some ingredients became difficult to source, and our feeding program menu was continually adjusted to ensure that available items still provided a nutritious and well-balanced diet.
- Support for **families experiencing hardship.** To assist SSY families facing increased economic pressure, HFC engaged some parents in food preparation roles. HFC also involved SSY students and graduates in various tasks—including communication work, peer-to-peer learning support, and small part-time jobs. This approach not only offered additional assistance but also created opportunities for young people to earn income and apply their skills.
- **Intensifying housing challenges.** Rapid development across Addis Ababa has forced many school families to relocate to the outskirts of the city. Many lost what little they had with no advance notice.

These relocations created a host of difficulties: students now face commutes of over two hours each way, parents have lost employment due to travel barriers, and families in the new settlement areas have limited access to health clinics and essential support services. HFC has provided assistance through support letters, referrals, crisis support, and counselling.

As in previous years, we allocated additional funding to food assistance for school families, helping prevent severe and prolonged hardship. We also introduced transportation allowances to more than 60 students who now travel long distances to reach the school.

FINANCE SUMMARY



Hope for
Children

OUR REVENUE 30 JUNE 2025

HFC generates revenue primarily through corporate donors, private foundations, and individual supporters from Australia, the UK, and the USA. In FY25, Hope for Children reported **total revenue of \$874,153**. The **\$25,000 decrease** in donations compared to the previous year was largely due to a few sponsorship renewals not being received within the reporting period, as well as significantly lower dividend payouts. However, higher-than-expected general donations and contributions directed toward specific activities helped reduce the potential deficit.

A key highlight of FY25 is that, despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures affecting many households globally, **financial support from individual donors remained steady**. This demonstrates the strong commitment and continued trust our supporters place in our work.

OUR EXPENDITURE 30 JUNE 2025

In FY25, Hope for Children recorded total **expenditure of \$935,745**, which was **\$98,000 higher** than the previous year. This amount includes **\$225,709 allocated to our main project, the School of St Yared**, funding of **\$461,928 was allocated to two partnership projects in the Philippines** and **\$75,000 was allocated to Super Typhoon Carina Relief program**.

SSY program expenditure was **\$25,000 lower** this year, largely due to favourable exchange rate movements that generated **savings of more than \$89,000**. In August 2024, the Ethiopian Government introduced major foreign-exchange reforms aimed at stabilising the economy. As a result, the Ethiopian Birr experienced a sharp depreciation. The exchange rate shifted from AUD/ETB 1:38 in July 2024 to an average of 1:78 by June 2025.

WTRC partnership projects expenditure was higher of \$71,500 due to additional costs for the Sensory room development, which was approved by the Board.

Administrative costs for HFC totalled **\$174,000**, covering compliance, administration, finance, human resources and accountability expenses. This represents a **33% increase**, primarily driven by an **FX-related loss of almost \$48,000** on cash held in Ethiopia prior to the sharp devaluation of the Birr. HFC also invested \$10,000 in the development of a new website, which will strengthen security measures. Despite these pressures, we effectively managed other administrative expenses to minimise the overall impact of rising operational costs and the depreciating Ethiopian Birr—ensuring there was no compromise to the quality of our programs and activities.

The net loss for the year was \$61,592, compared to a **surplus of \$62,082** in the previous year. This reported loss primarily reflects funds that were received in the prior financial year but allocated to activities delivered during the reporting period.

In addition, HFC recorded a **\$275,850 decrease in investment value**, resulting in a total **comprehensive loss of \$337,442** for the year.

HFC AUDITED FINANCIALS

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Revenue	2025	2024
Donations and Gifts		
Monetary	778,143	761,007
Grants		
DFAT	-	-
Other Australian Grants	-	-
Investment Income	89,357	133,714
Other income	6,653	5,068
Total Revenue	874,153	899,789
Expenditure		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
Funds to International Programs	719,536	654,423
Program Support Costs	43,101	67,195
Fundraising Costs		
Public	-	-
Government, multilateral and private	9,500	-
Accountability and Administration	115,428	116,089
Total International Development and Humanitarian Costs		837,707
Other Expenditure	48,180	-
Total Expenditure	935,745	837,707
Surplus/(Deficit)	(61,592)	62,082
Other comprehensive income/(loss) – revaluation	(275,850)	(34,650)
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	(337,442)	27,432

These figures above and on the following page have been extracted from the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025. The full audited financial statements are available on ACNC website

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/23b3dcf9-39af-e811-a95e-000d3ad24c60/documents/>

Alternatively, please email info@hopeforchildren.org.au to request a copy.

These financial statements comply with the presentation and disclosure requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct, Please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct for more information.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	875,758	524,837
Trade and other receivables	45,404	58,723
Other assets	14,232	406,990
Total Current Assets	935,394	990,550
Non Current Assets		
Other Financial Assets	687,600	963,450
Property, Plant & Equipment	3,635	9,288
Other Non-current Assets	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	691,235	972,738
Total Assets	1,626,629	1,963,288
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	12,082	11,285
Current Tax Liabilities	-	-
Other Financial Liabilities	9,010	10,257
Other	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	21,092	21,542
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other Financial Liabilities	10,765	9,532
Other	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	10,765	9,532
Total Liabilities	31,857	31,074
Net Assets	1,594,772	1,932,214
Equity		
Revaluation reserve	529,137	804,986
Retained Earnings	1,065,635	1,127,228
Total Equity	1,594,772	1,932,214

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Retained Earnings	Revaluation Reserve	Other	Total
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,127,227	804,987	-	1,932,214
Items of other comprehensive income		(275,850)		(275,850)
Excess of revenue over expenses	(61,592)			(61,592)
Other amounts transferred (to) or from reserves	-	-		-
Balance at 30 June 2025	1,065,635	529,137	-	1,594,772

HFC GOVERNANCE

Ms. Jacqui Gilmour - Founder and Executive Director



Jacqui has many years' experiences living and working in Africa, including involvement in relief efforts during the 80s Ethiopian famine. She speaks to numerous community, school and business groups to raise awareness of the plight of Ethiopian AIDS orphans; and has been instrumental in fostering relationships with government, education and medical institutes to implement joint initiatives for the benefit of children in Ethiopia.

Mr. David Bussau AM – Director



David is a pioneer of microfinance, having founded Opportunity International Australia and co-founded the Opportunity International Network. His Foundation led to the startup of 15 international movements addressing a broad spectrum of social issues in developing countries, including health, education, nutrition, water, microfinance, persecution and leadership. He was awarded the Ernst & Young Australian Entrepreneur of the Year in 2003, the ACFID Human Rights Award in 2006, the Beta Gamma Sigma Award for Entrepreneurship in 2007 and he was named Senior Australian of the Year 2008. David was also voted by the Bulletin as one of Australia's "10 Most Creative Minds."

Ms. Marcelle Anderson – Director and Chairperson



Marcelle worked for over 15 years at senior management and advisor levels in the Federal, Western Australian and New South Wales government sectors. From 2009 she worked for eight years at WorleyParsons as manager of Government and regulatory approvals both in Australia and globally.

She has served on the Board of the Minderoo Foundation, and as Chair of St Andrew's Grammar School in Western Australia, and as secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community of WA.



Our approach to RISK

HFC recognises identifying and adequately responding to risks as a critical factor to the successful achievement of our goals and vision. We have a comprehensive risk governance structure and accountability framework to support the effective risk management, which guides all our activities on all levels of HFC operations. HFC risk register is a working document and gets frequently reviewed by the Board and the Management.

Environmental Impact

Climate risks pose complex challenges, particularly in developing countries, where they intersect with limited resources, instability, and the ongoing need to address basic human needs. Recognising this, we are committed to deepening our understanding of how climate change affects our communities and their livelihoods.

HFC is actively researching sustainability-focused and solutions-driven ideas to explore new ways of building resilience, strengthening skills, and empowering communities to become environmental leaders with pathways toward sustainable economic independence.

As part of this commitment, we are also strengthening sustainable food production through our on-site kitchen garden. This initiative not only enhances food security for our students by providing access to fresh, nutritious produce, but also serves as a hands-on learning environment. By fostering these practical, environmentally conscious practices, we aim to inspire long-term behavioural change and promote local solutions that support healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities.

Our approach begins with small, practical steps—because we believe in the power of a ripple effect. One of our current initiatives focuses on finding alternatives to widely used charcoal stoves and kerosene lamps. Eliminating the need for kerosene and reducing charcoal reliance will significantly lower household air pollution and reduce exposure to serious health hazards.

HFC is also a member of the ACFID Climate Policy & Practice Community, which provides a collaborative platform to share strategic insights, tackle shared challenges, and develop innovative approaches that strengthen climate action across the sector.

Legal Status

Hope for Children Organization Australia Limited is registered under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (Corporations Act) as a public company limited by guarantee. The company was incorporated in Western Australia on 11 May 2004.

Constitution

HFC is governed by constitution that was approved on 3 May 2004. The constitution covers the objects of the organisation, application and disbursement of income and property, membership, governance structure, duties, delegations, powers and election of board members, conflict of interest, indemnity and insurance, board and members meetings, gift funds, financial responsibilities and winding up processes. The constitution was amended by resolution on 1 July 2009 (see cl 22.5).

Tax Concession

HFC is a Charitable Institution with access to GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption and Fringe benefits tax (FBT) Exemption. The organisation has been registered for GST since 1 July 2013.

HFC is listed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) under item 1 and has operated a gift fund since 21 July 2010.

HFC is also registered as a public benevolent institution.

Not for Profit

The not-for-profit nature of HFC is enshrined in the constitution where it notes the profits, income and property are applied to achieve the objects of the organisation and cannot be distributed to members of the board or the organisation. Clause 1.3 notes that HFC “must apply its income and property solely towards promoting the objects of the Company...”

Additionally, Clause 25 notes that on winding up “any surplus property remaining after the full settlement of debts and liabilities incurred by the Company must be distributed to such funds authorities or institutions having purposes similar to the purposes of the Company...”

Accreditations

Hope for Children is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC) and is working towards a fully accreditation through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Hope for Children has the ACNC Registered Charity Tick and through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is a deductible-gift recipient.

Hope for Children Australia is a member and signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, which sets out standards of governance, communications, and funding allocation. HFC makes sure that ACFID Code of Conduct training is completed, understood and observed by all staff.



ACFID
MEMBER



Our commitment to equality, transparency, and accountability

Hope for Children values its relationship with its partners, its members, its donors, its supporters, its volunteers, its communities, and other stakeholders who partner with it to enable it to achieve its purpose.

They all can trust us to act ethically with a full transparency. HFC is committed to being transparent in our work and accountability to build trust through open conversations and always welcomed feedback.

HFC believes all people regardless of age, religion, race, ethnicity, indigeneity, class, caste, gender and gender identity, sexuality and sexual orientation, or socio-economic status have equal right to live their lives free from sexual violence, exploitation, abuse and harassment.

HFC aims to provide a safe and trusted environment that safeguards everyone from SEA including beneficiary communities, workers, program participants and partner organisations. HFC is committed to safeguarding the people and communities we work with and alongside.

We recognise that the nature of the work that we undertake places our staff, volunteers and other representatives in positions of power and trust in relation to the people and communities accessing our programs and that there is an inherent risk of some HFC representatives exploiting their position of power for personal gain. Therefore, HFC has a no-tolerance approach to our staff, volunteers, consultants, partners or any other representatives associated with the delivery of our work carrying out any form of sexual harassment, abuse or exploitation.

HFC is strongly committed to principles of accountability and transparency to all stakeholders. Included in this commitment is a 'zero-tolerance' opposition to all forms of corruption, bribery and fraud, all Governance and Risk Management practices are in accordance with DFAT ANCP Manual.

HFC recognises that the management of fraud, bribery and corruption is an integral part of good governance and management practice, and adopts the standards contained in the Standard AS8001-2008: Fraud and Corruption Control and the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

HFC has an obligation to its members and donors and all stockholders to ensure that all monies used by the organisation are used for their articulated purposes and that processes are in place to ensure that fraud and any misuse of funds is prevented and mitigated against.

HFC acknowledges that the developing countries in which it works are inherently difficult environments with, often, weak governance arrangements and attitudes towards accountability and transparency different to those in Australia. The paying of bribes encourages corruption, which, like fraudulent acts, is something that can further harm those already disadvantaged by diverting goods, services and opportunities away from them. It also is considered a high risk that such actions will prevent the objectives of HFC's programs being achieved. For this reason, HFC has systems and procedures in place to protect public and donated funds from fraud and corruption both in Australia and the countries in which it works.

We also ensure internal procedures and reporting guidelines adhere to current regulatory and legislative requirements. We uphold the highest standards of practice, as demonstrated by our commitment to the:

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- Fundraising Institute of Australia's Principles & Standards of Fundraising Practice.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on this report and in relation to our operations and conduct. Please send any feedback or complaints to **Company Secretary, HFC, PO. Box 919, Claremont WA 6910 or info@hopeforchildren.org.au**.

Feedback and complaints can also be lodged in each of the countries in which HFC works via HFC website.

Further details can be found in HFC's complaints policy at hopeforchildren.org.au/complaints-policy. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID member can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via acfid.asn.au/content/complaints.

Amesegenaleau! (Thank You!)

We are most grateful for the support of our network of partners and donors. It is only through active collaboration and continued belief in our mission that we are able to deliver high quality programs to serve communities in Ethiopia and beyond.

Our Most Heartfelt gratitude goes to **Richard Lockwood and family, John Bond, Tony Grist, Forrest Family Foundation, B1G1 and their supporters, Piers K Fowler Trust, The Howarth Foundation, Graham Forward, The Maranatha Trust, Chris Dale, Huxtable family and each and every supporter of our vision.**



Hope For Children Australia is a ACFID member and a registered ACNC Charity.



info@hopeforchildren.org.au



hopeforchildren.org.au



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