



# Hope for Children Organization Australia Ltd.

## 2019 – 2020 Annual Report



## Introduction

This Annual Report covers the reporting period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The annual report presents the program of HFC and key accomplishments, changes, and challenges during the 2019-2020 period.

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## Our History

- Founded by Jacqui Gilmour in 2004, Hope for Children works in Ethiopia to support vulnerable children, young people, and their families to realize their inherent potential. HFC registered in Australia 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 11 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, 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.
- 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.

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## Hope for Children Today

With all the challenges presented during the 2019/2020 HFC continues to serve orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and their families as well as their communities. Since May 2019 HFC's Head Office moved to Forensai and employ approximately 45 Ethiopian staff including development professionals, teachers, a communications officer, counselors, and livelihood experts, among others.

In the reporting period we have had one project sites in Addis Ababa and one Operating Agreement with the Addis Ababa City Administration. The total number of beneficiaries in 2019/2020 is

**2,530 direct beneficiaries**

**Over 15,000 indirect beneficiaries**

In Australia, a small and largely voluntary team provide administrative, financial and funding support to the Ethiopian 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 livelihoods. 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.*

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE HFC BENEFICIARIES**

*'The feeding program HFC supported us with wasn't only about food! With every food parcel we also received hope, reassurance and feeling of being cared for. Thanks to the HFC support we became stronger and were able to stay together.'* – **SSY Parents committee**

*'Before the school got closed in late March, St Yared provided us all with a training on the Covid-19 and we were sent home with soap and sanitiser. It was especially important for us to understand what COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is so we could protect ourselves and our families. There was so little information available and our parents didn't believe it was real. We learn about the virus and how to prevent it.*

*We went back to our homes and started educating not only our parents but all our neighbours. It wasn't easy, many people didn't believe us and laughed at our face masks. My mum got angry with me for cutting my clothes to make face masks, but I knew from the training this was an important part of keeping my family safe. Knowing how to protect ourselves is a very empowering feeling.'* – **SSY 8 grade student**

## This year highlights

- This school year started with another success of SSY 2019 graduates. Eight out of nineteen students scored over 95% in their National Exam. The average national score was 64.5%. All SSY students successfully pass.
- In early August 2019, Yared Wolde, co-founder of the school has graduated with degree in Leadership and Management – **Congratulations!**



- In August 2019, All SSY teachers and admin staff have attended four weeks of intensive English language course at British Council. **Thank you to St Yared's Trust UK for funding it!**
- In October 2019, Amanda Huxtable, SSY Educational Advisor and Patrick Thomas, Digital Technology Teacher undertook comprehensive assessments of SSY technology usage, efficiency, and future needs. They have provided training on ICT related curriculum with hands-on experience to all SSY teachers. **Thank you to Cooper Investors for funding this initiative!**





- In November and December 2020, HFC and SSY senior staff participated in a professional team building workshop over 4 daily sessions focusing on teamwork, leadership skills effective communication skills, diversity, and stereotypes. The workshop was very engaging, interactive and fun.



- In December 2019, SSY received highest award from the Local government and the Department of Education. The school was recognized for its cleanliness, staff wellbeing and management. **Congratulation to SSY!**
- In February 2020, the school was visited by Israeli Ambassador, His Excellency Raphael Morav, Australian Embassy representative, representatives of Educational Bureau and top Community leaders.



- In March 2020, Jacqui Gilmour, founder and director of HFC and SSY, spent over two weeks with HFC and SSY staff working through all activities and future plans. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic her trip was cut short however she managed to deliver comprehensive training on COVID-19 prevention to all staff and students. Jacqui also assisted SSY teachers in

preparation for a distance teaching. Before her departure, The School of St Yared has implemented COVID- 19 response plan, which focused on the health and safety of all our staff and students.



- On Sunday ,15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced a range of country-wide measures aimed at restricting the rate of transmission of COVID-19. These included closure of all schools for two weeks commencing on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 Ethiopia announced a State of Emergency which extended the closure of all schools until the end of August 2020.

All SSY students continued their education from their homes. Before the school closure in March all students were given books and study materials. On-line learning methods were explored however most of SSY families didn't have access to reliable internet and only few had access to smart electronic devices. It was decided to provide all students with printed materials prepared by SSY teachers. Homework and educational progress were regularly monitored; every month members of the SSY parents committee were collecting students 'homework and distributing new study materials along with feedback from previous work.

Remarkable all our students managed to complete all their studies and assignments so they can continue their education in the following school year without and delays or disruptions.

**Thank you to all SSY staff for their dedication and hard work!**

## **1. The School of St Yared**

The school continued to provide its core purpose of educating selected students but also to cater for and assist their entire community.

In turn, the school's intentional, community-based approach ensures that a sense of value and potential impacts the broader community in tangible, meaningful ways. We have created the conditions through which these communities can develop their own capacities to thrive.



The school offers support to its community as its crucial step to change the circumstances of their lives and of those around them. During the past school year, the school faced several major challenges followed by COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the school closure. Our team remained as committed as ever to providing the best possible education to our students despite these difficulties, and always works to find creative solutions to the often-challenging landscape of operating a nonprofit school for most unprivileged communities.

This year one of the focus areas of the school was sustainable food production. The school feeding program is a vital foundation for our students' educational progress. Without our feeding program, many of our children would come to school hungry and would be unable to focus on their learning. There are multiple benefits of well-balance food. It alleviates short term hunger and supports longer term improved educational attainment, improved nutrition, and health, laying strong foundations for a healthier, more productive life.



It is evident now that thanks to the food provided, our students are stronger, healthier, more energetic than their peers from similar backgrounds.

We know how important the school feeding program is, the school directly affects student health and, ultimately, public health and long-term community sustainability, while teaching students about nutrition. Through our purchasing polices, schools help support local agriculture.

Our School gardens create opportunities to experience basic ecological concepts firsthand—the flow of energy from the sun to plants and animals, planetary cycles of water and weather, the web of relations embodied in every bite. They help students learn where the food they eat comes from and how it gets to them. This year the focus was on providing food education for all school students to form positive food habits, for life. The aim is for children to have a 'hands-on' experience in gardening, cooking, and sharing a meal together so that they adopt lifelong skills and learn to love real, nutritious food.



**We would like to take this opportunity and give our most sincere thank you to Richard Lockwood and his family for their generous support for the school, particularly the feeding program.**

## **COVID-19 Pandemic impact**

Following COVID-19 pandemic development around the world, in early April 2020, the Ethiopian government placed the country under State of Emergency with all schols closed until the end of August 2020. This resulted in immediate jobs loses and most of our families going hungry. By the end of April 95% of our school families reported severe food shortage and being forced to beg on



streets. The feeding program as a vital part of SSY services provided to all students has to be suspended in the last week of March due to closure of the school. To ensure all SSY students receive enough food during the lockdown and our community is protected, HFC decided to extend the feeding program to all SSY families. This was to keep our students studying and not worrying about next meal. This is also to protect our children from potential abuse or being send out to source food for the family.

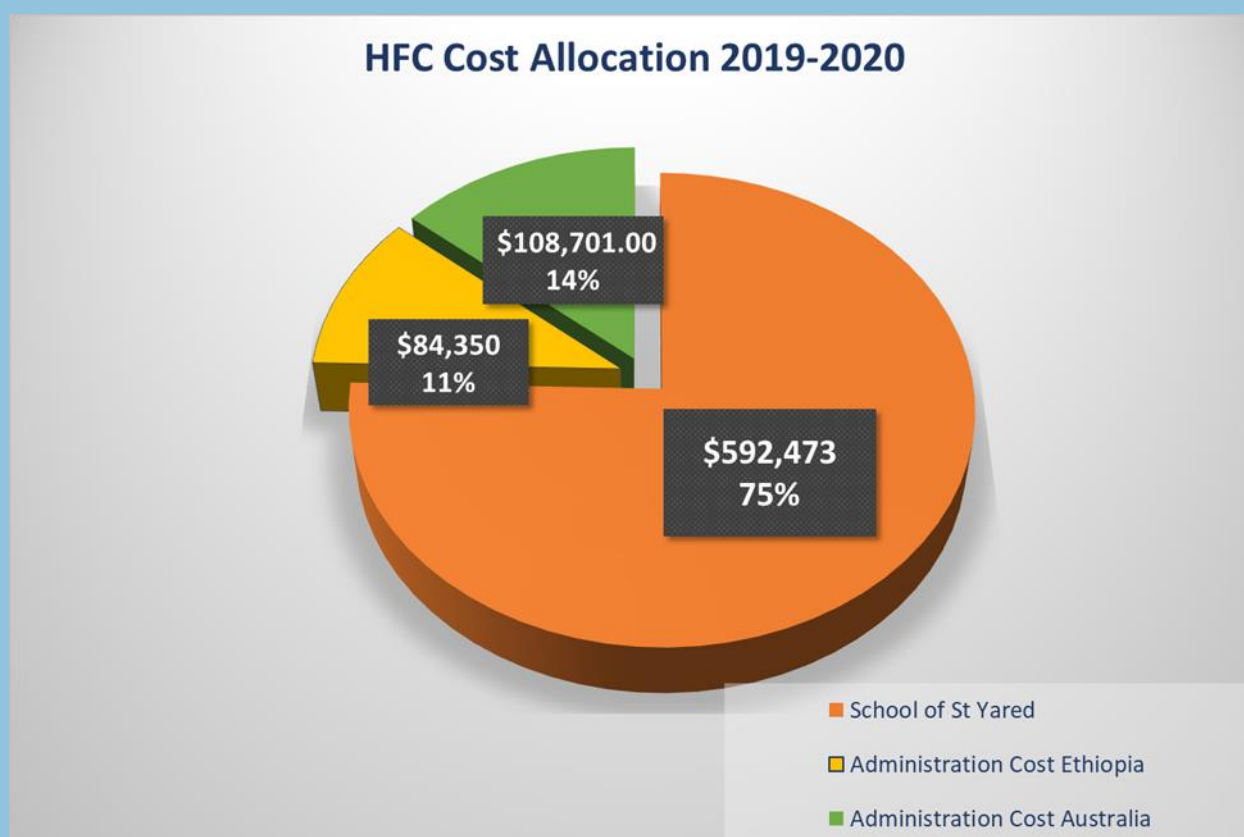
With support of the school parents committee monthly food support was introduced. All school families received monthly food allocations mainly consisted of teff flour, rice and oil. They also received soap and sanitizer.





## Summary for HFC budget utilisation (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

Budget Category	Planned	Performance	Utilisation Rate
The First & Second Cycle Education Cost (SSY)	\$ 589,672.00	\$ 592,472.56	100.5%
Total Administration Cost-Ethiopia	\$ 85,550.00	\$ 84,349.71	98.6%
Total Administration Cost - Australia	\$ 106,017.00	\$ 108,701.00	102.5%





We are grateful for the support of our 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.

# THANK YOU

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