



# **Hope for Children Organization Australia Ltd. 2018 – 2019 Annual Report**



**November 2019**

## Introduction

This Annual Report covers the reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The annual report presents the program of HFC and key accomplishments, changes and challenges during the 2018-2019 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 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 10 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 a Sponsorship Program, School of St Yared, Self-Help Groups, 'Let's Talk about Sex' a sexual and reproductive health program for young people, Anti-trafficking activities and women's livelihoods
- 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 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and their families as well as women who are returnees from the Middle East. Since May 2019 HFC's Head Office moved to Forensai and employ approximately 64 Ethiopian staff including development professionals, teachers, a communications officer, counselors and livelihood experts among others.

In the reporting period we have had two project sites in Addis Ababa and one Operating Agreements with the Addis Ababa City Administration. The total number of beneficiaries in 2018/2019 is

**2,615 direct beneficiaries**

**12,975 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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS**

*We all have a responsibility to teach the younger generation to the best of our ability. Every one of us has lessons we have learnt in our lifetime that we need to empower them with. I believe our job is obvious, by shining a light we assist this new generation to teach itself to achieve beyond our dreams. As adults we need to all work hard to provide the best learning environment for our students. We should then get out of their way and allow them the room to learn, explore and achieve!*

*Director and Founder of Hope for Children - **Jacqui Gilmour***

*The School of St Yared began as a dream. Bringing dreams to life is not always easy. I know firsthand how hard working in an NGO can be but look how far we have come together! We have achieved so much, and our students, parents and staff are a testimony to the value of hard work and the power of education. Happy 10th Anniversary! Thank you for believing in our dream.*

*Co-Founder of School of St Yared - **Yared Wolde***

## Summary of Activities and Achievements

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

- We have had a change in leadership in the organization, farewelling previous Country Representative Gayle Deighton and welcomed David Lee to the role.
- HFC signed a new operating agreement with the Ethiopian Government.
- Base line assessment of all remaining CYC beneficiaries was completed. Out of 236 beneficiaries only 105 were still in need of support in July 2018. Regular income generating training was offered to all 105 families. In June 2019 all beneficiaries of CYC graduated from the program.
- For the first time in history of the School of St Yared (SSY), in July 2018, 56 of Year 8 graduates took National Exam. These 56 students were the first SSY Kindergarten intake and they results were outstanding
- HFC signed an 8 months project extension Memorandum of Understanding with major donor Geneva Global for the partial funding of the Women & Child Livelihood Program in Addis Ketema.
- HFC secured funding for the School of St Yared's Parents Committee income generating farming projects

## Description of Projects, Activities and Achievements

### 1. The School of St Yared

This year marks ten years since the initial seeds for The School of St Yared were planted. Over the past decade, St Yared's has changed the trajectory for hundreds of underprivileged children by providing access to quality education. What began as a seemingly impossible dream to challenge the notion that a child's future is predetermined by poverty has become a movement to support a new generation of changemakers, and their families.

Whenever our students are asked what makes The School of St Yared 'different' from other schools, the answer is nearly always the same: their teachers. St Yared's students do not come from ordinary situations which our dedicated team of educators know and understand. By visiting student homes and maintaining close relationships based on mentorship and compassion, our teachers gain a deeper appreciation of the challenges that their students face both in and outside of the classroom. Many students refer to their teachers as family, saying that they are more like





their parents or siblings than traditional teachers. While many aspects of our education model can be emulated by others, we know that the outpouring of love that our teachers provide truly makes the greatest impact to put our students on the pathway for success.

During the past school year, the school faced several major challenges. Our team remains 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.

### Major Accomplishments:

- In July, we celebrated the end of the 2017/2018 Academic School Year and very first intake of Kindy Kids graduated from Primary School. Grade 8 marks the end of primary education in Ethiopia and it's concluded by National Exam. This was very critical point for the project to assess effectiveness of the school model. Out of 56 students undertaking the National Exam 30 students received score over 80% with 3 of SSY students placed in top 1% nation-wide.
- The school received award from the local Government. The school was rewarded for its cleanliness, for being very well organised and for looking after wellbeing of its staff as well as its students
- *Provided Formal and Quality Education:* provision of high-quality KG - Grade 9 education to a total of 305 children. The education was provided based on the Ethiopian Ministry of Education's policies and standards.
- *School Feeding:* provision of three daily nutritious meals (breakfast, morning tea and lunch) throughout the academic year for all school students.
- *School Materials Support:* each of the target children were provided with essential learning materials and uniforms
- *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.
- *Extra-curricular activities:* Students participated in various social events (sport, holidays celebration), cultural entertainments (music, dance, drama, poetry) and Ethiopian Flag Day, among others. The monthly contests organized on specific subject areas have improved academic performance to all students attend in The School of St Yared.



- *Adequate Supplies and Equipment:* HFC has developed and purchased sufficient numbers of textbooks, activity books and teacher guides to support a quality teaching-learning process.
- *Teaching Staff:* During the year new teaching staff were employed and capacity building trainings were provided to all teaching staff
- The School has a Parent Student Teacher Association (PSTA), and parents were elected to the association during the reporting period. Various meetings with The School of St Yared PSTA were convened and discussed critical issues related to the students and the school's performance.



## **2. Child, Youth and Community Program**

HFC's Child, Youth and Community Programme ensures vulnerable children and youth in the HFC target community of Gulele have access to 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.

### **2.1. Child Sponsorship**

During the report period, HFC provided a package of support to 68 orphan and vulnerable children, a majority being affected by HIV/AIDS, who have lost one or both parents and who live in conditions of extreme poverty, with no regular income to survive or to attend school.

This program was finalised in June 2019 after all beneficiaries and their families were offered income generating training.

### Major Accomplishments:

- *Monthly Cash Allowance for Food:* All 68 sponsored children/caregivers received a monthly food allowance (300 birr per month), all payments made in the first week of the month.
- *School Materials:* Provided school materials - school fees, school uniforms, exercise books, pencil and pens to 68 beneficiaries.
- *After School 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.
- *Medical Support:* This reporting period 36 children's health status was assessed, and further referral check-ups were performed. 6 families accessed the medical support.
- *Letter Correspondence:* In order to maintain a strong relationship between beneficiaries and their sponsors, all students wrote letters to their sponsors. This included annual sponsor update letters and thank you letters if children received gifts from their sponsors.
- *Food Support for HIV Positive Children:* 6 HIV positive children from the sponsorship program have received supplementary food items to strengthen their immune systems from infections.
- *Distribution of Sanitary Pad:* provision of sanitary pad made to 47 students
- *Psychosocial Support:* 19 children received psychosocial support through individual and group counselling sessions. Life skills training was provided and conducted for 10 students.
- *Home Assessment Visits:* Two home assessors conducted regular home visit to ensure the wellbeing of OVC's.
- *Economic empowerment:* five self-help groups were established, and business management training was provided to 86 beneficiaries.







## 2.3. Scholarship Project

The Scholarship Project targets students 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 2018/19, HFC provided 38 OVC students the opportunity to pursue vocational and higher education. HFC's support covered monthly pocket money, tuition fees and education materials.

### Major Accomplishments:

- *Financial Support:* A total of 38 young people were granted scholarship support, which included pocket money and set up costs.
- *Student Graduation:* In this reporting period, 13 students graduated from higher education and were certified from various technical and vocational training institutions. Financial support was provided for the graduation process.

### Success Story- Solomon Birhanu

HFC has supported Solomon since he was 10 years old. He completed high school with excellent results, one of the best performers of his graduating year.

The reward for his great results was a position at Adama University to study Civil Engineering. He has continued to study hard at university and was rewarded with a great GPA upon graduating.

Solomon is now a student at the Ethiopian Airlines Pilot Training College where he is determined to succeed using the dedication and motivation he has already exhibited. He, and his family, are encouraged that this training and opportunity will enable him to secure a great job in the future which, in turn, will increase and motivate opportunities for the whole family.





### 3. Women & Child Livelihood Project

This project aimed to support returnees and their families in Addis Ketema sub-city to develop alternative livelihoods. The major objectives were to improve economic and social opportunities for target returnee young women; to reduce the psychological problems of target women through counseling and reintegration services; to strengthen selected community-based organizations to provide community-based support for at risk young women and returnees.

This 3 -years project has been successfully concluded in February 2019.

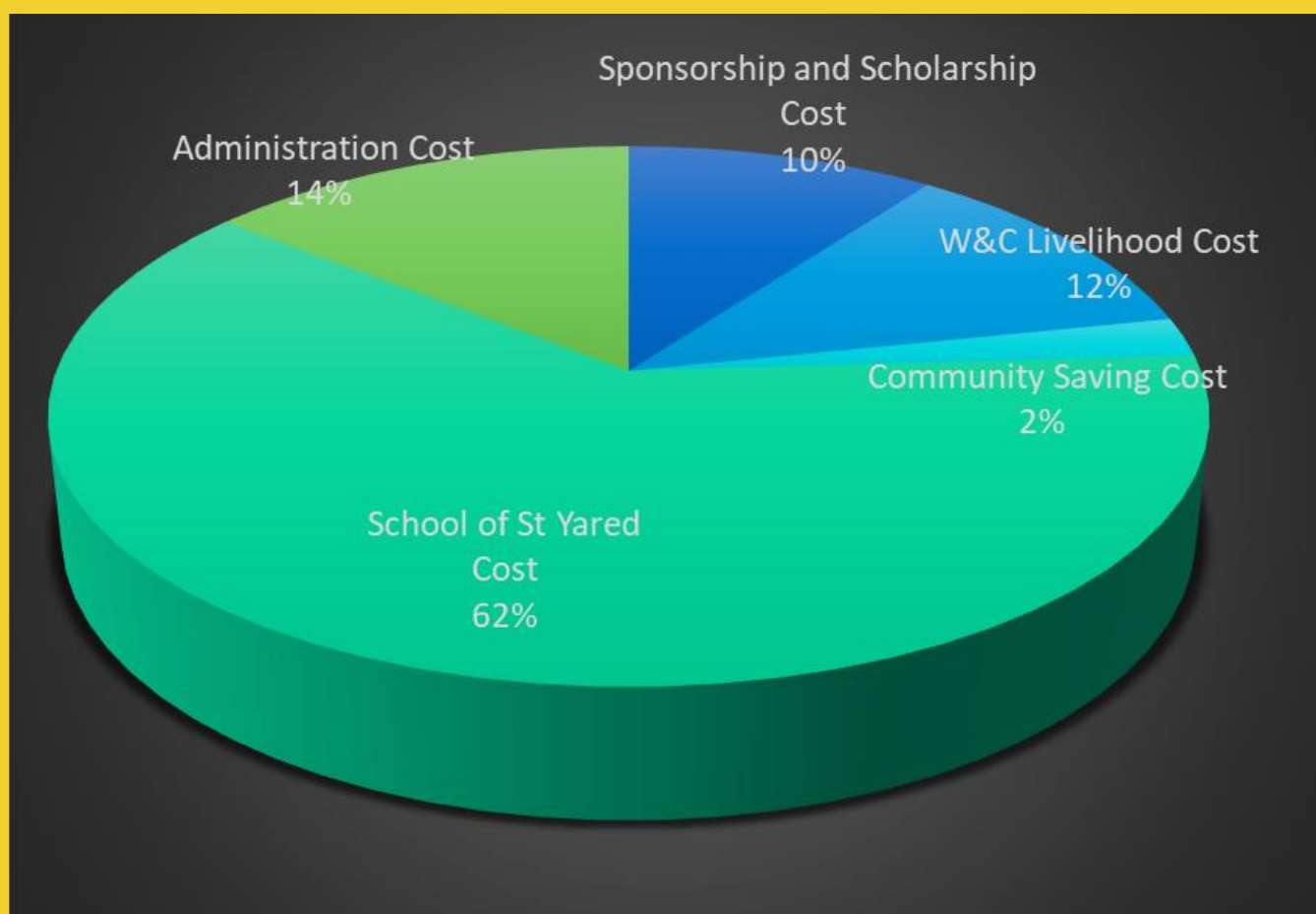
#### Major Accomplishments:

- *Establishment of SHGs:* 87 women were organized into 7 SHGs
- *Group Savings:* All groups are saving on average 25-40 ETB per person per week in the reporting period
- *Cluster Level Association:* One Cluster Level Association was formed
- *CLA Concept Training:* the training was provided for two days for ten selected representatives of SHG members (CLA delegates of each group).
- *SHG concept training:* Two days training on SHG concept was given for all SHG members.
- *Entrepreneurship and small business management training:* A three-day training was provided to participants from SHGs and VTEC. The training enabled participants to understand the basic concepts of small business management and entrepreneurship.
- *Experience sharing visit for SHG participants:* The project organized an exposure visit to successful SHGs and role model businesswomen in Addis Ketema. The exposure visit was organized for all young returnee women from five SHGs and consisted of site visit to a well-established CLA and SHGs.
- *Psychosocial Support:* Three types of counseling; individual, group and creative therapy, was provided in the reporting period for project targets.
- *Training on the migration related proclamations:* Training was organized for 45 participants from women associations, Iddir council and community facilitators to familiarize the participants on the Overseas Employment and Migrants Trafficking and Smuggling Prevention Proclamations.



## Summary for budget utilisation (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

Budget Category	Planned	Performance	Utilisation Rate
Total Sponsorship & Scholarship Project Costs	\$ 90,103	\$ 54,252.13	60%
Total W&C Livelihood Project cost	\$ 103,359	\$ 101,121.91	98%
Total Community Saving Direct Project cost	\$ 20,672	\$ 20,000.00	97%
Total First & Second Cycle Education cost (SSY)	\$ 550,228	\$ 500,875.87	91%
Total Administration Cost	\$ 126,357	\$ 105,053.92	83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 890,719</b>	<b>\$ 781,304</b>	<b>88%</b>



## Milestones and highlights

### ❖ **SSY First ever Grade 8 National Exam**

In July 2018 our Grade 8 students, teachers and parents gathered with anticipation and excitement as everyone eagerly awaited their exam results. It was significant moment for the School of St Yared as these students are the first year group to start at the school, therefore their results reflect far more than the sheer hard work that has got them to this point, it also represents the journey and the impact our school has made over the past ten years and how our vision has become a wonderful reality, which continues to unfold as our students continue on their academic path.



### ❖ **Second visit of Compass**

Compass is a fledgling Australian NGO founded by a group of compassionate University of Western Australia change-makers and medical students, wanting to contribute to change and education, with a focus on health. Three members visited The School of St Yared and Hope for Children in Addis Ababa. It was their second visit to Africa where they learnt more about Ethiopia, its people and of course The School of St Yared. With gum boots and rain gear, the girls battled the tough terrain and poor weather conditions to visit students and their families in their homes so that they could update student profiles. As the girls stated on their blog, "We find these visits truly eye-opening as we visit the homes of the students, meet their parents, and learn more about their lives, and dreams for the future." Students took part in Compass' Healthy Living Program, which explored various healthy and unhealthy foods, introduced the students to the Healthy Eating Pyramid, and they learnt about the digestive system. Older students competed Part 1 of the Sexual



Health Program. St Yared students were also taught some basic first aid and basic life support. This was done by simulating a car accident with the students, and each student got to practice checking for danger, sending for help, and splinting and putting a sling on their peers. The school students participated enthusiastically in the training and, given that it was presented from a younger perspective, found it more relatable.

### ❖ **SSY celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

On January 26 the entire School of St Yared community, including students and their families, teachers and school staff, HFC team members and government representatives, came together to celebrate our ten-year anniversary. Amanda Huxtable represented the Australian St Yared family and was warmly welcomed by the whole school community. The celebration included a video slideshow, powerful testimonials, staff awards and an



entertainment program. The sense of pride and ownership felt by the community was evident through the displays of emotion and positive energy that were exhibited throughout the day.



Our first ten years have shown that education truly can change lives and provide a pathway out of poverty.

## ❖ Australian Ambassador Visit

In February we were honoured to welcome the newly appointed Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia, His Excellency Peter Doyle, along with his wife Jennifer to visit The School of St Yared's Farensay campus. The Doyle's were welcomed with a coffee ceremony,

had time to

chat with Yared about his story and vision, toured the school and visited classrooms to see the students in action. They expressed admiration for the students and teachers and their desire to support the school.



**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.**

### CONTACT US:

Email: [info@hopeforchildren.org.au](mailto:info@hopeforchildren.org.au)  
Facebook: Hope For Children  
Website: [www.hopeforchildren.org.au](http://www.hopeforchildren.org.au)  
Youtube: Hope for Children Organisation





globetrotter

ASHANTI  
CAPITAL

hopeforchildren  
FUND

SIT



ALBIONCAPITAL



COMPASS



*THANK YOU*



