



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION ETHIOPIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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EDUCATION ETHIOPIA**



**“We believe it is through education that one can rid of the onset, continuation, and cyclical nature of poverty”**

**ECEE Guiding Principle #5**

## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On behalf of our esteemed Board Members, we are grateful for your unwavering support, encouragement, and invaluable financial contributions. Your dedication has played a pivotal role in shaping our organization's journey and making a tangible difference.

As we reflect upon the past year, we are filled with profound gratitude for the remarkable milestones achieved since our inception less than two years ago. From completing our inaugural project in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, to hosting country-wide online training sessions and coordinating impactful conferences on the significance of investing in the first five years of life, our accomplishments have exceeded our expectations. We are humbled by the unwavering collaboration and response to the numerous calls to action we have made as an organization.

While we have established our office and assembled a team of dedicated staff members, we remain committed to laying a strong foundation in rural Ethiopia. Our ultimate goal is to positively impact the lives of children by providing them with exceptional early learning environments. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our foundational work, and your support has been instrumental in this endeavor.

Throughout this journey, we have encountered valuable learning experiences that have fortified our strategies for the future. We have also witnessed transformative moments that have informed our practices and shaped our growth. One noteworthy achievement is establishing a robust volunteer database, attracting individuals from diverse backgrounds who share our passion for this cause. Furthermore, our partnerships with higher education institutions, social agencies, and local organizations have proven immensely advantageous in advancing our mission and vision. Together, we are prioritizing and promoting the agenda of children in Ethiopia.

*Dr. Hawani Negussie  
Founder & Executive Director*



## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

### PROJECT ALPHA

At the start of the year, we launched Project Alpha, where we explored an existing early education program located in a rural area, engaged in a partnership model, and implemented vital interventions to change systems across all domains from program function, curricular approach, and environment. We were fortunate to receive a warm response from the KG program at Shimmbit Elementary School in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. They graciously opened their doors to us, providing unparalleled access to every aspect of their operation.

Our team diligently engaged in a comprehensive site study and executed vital interventions to revolutionize systems across all domains, ranging from program functionality and curricular approach to environmental enhancements. This collaborative partnership allowed us to deliver impactful parent and staff training sessions, effectively equipping them with valuable skills and knowledge on how to teach, interact and learn from children through a concept we called co-discovery learning.



## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Furthermore, we completely overhauled the classroom interiors, creating an engaging and conducive learning environment. In addition, we constructed a developmentally appropriate outdoor play and learning area, providing children with ample opportunities to explore, experiment, and cultivate foundational concepts found as they interact with their surroundings.

Through Project Alpha, we have witnessed transformative changes taking root within the Shimmbit Elementary School KG program. The collective efforts of our team, the school staff, and the community have paved the way for a more holistic and practical early education experience. By implementing innovative strategies and revamping crucial elements, we have created an environment that nurtures the growth and development of young children during their formative years. We are immensely proud of the outcomes achieved through Project Alpha and deeply grateful for the cooperation and support extended by Shimmbit Elementary School. Together, we have laid a solid foundation where children are empowered to thrive and embark on a lifelong journey of learning and discovery.

# EDUCATION TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

One of our primary objectives at Early Childhood Education Ethiopia is to ensure continuous training opportunities for staff, parents, and stakeholders. In May 2021, we collaborated with faculty and staff members from institutions throughout Ethiopia, including the University of Gondar, Addis Ababa University, Black Lion Hospital, Kotebe Education University, Hawassa University, and Debre Tabor University.

## STAFF AND PARENT TRAINING

This collaboration enabled us to deliver four parts of weekly comprehensive training sessions over a month covering child development, early childhood education, cultural norms and practices, special education, and much more. Presenters imparted their expertise on culturally relevant rearing practices, gender differences, parenting during the early years, trauma, nutrition, and much more. The training sessions attracted over 100 parents from Bahir Dar, Addis Ababa, and Hawasa to actively participate and benefit from the knowledge shared.



## ETHIOPIA IN TEN YEARS

In February, we organized a highly impactful two-part seminar that shed light on the significance of a comprehensive investment in Ethiopia's children during the first five years of life. It was an honor to host distinguished speakers from diverse disciplines whose expertise and insights enriched the conversation surrounding the agenda for children toward action.

Throughout the seminar, we touched on various thought-provoking topics that pushed the boundaries of conventional thinking and facilitated a deeper understanding of the multifaceted aspects contributing to children's well-being and development in Ethiopia. Presenters explored the indigenization of education systems, recognizing and harnessing the natural resources unique to Ethiopia, such as medicinal plants and sustainable farming practices.

# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

This year, our organization experienced significant achievements by establishing crucial strategic partnerships and collaborations, focusing on implementing projects that greatly benefit children.

We are delighted to highlight our successful partnerships with Debre Tabor University, the University of Gondar, Kotebe Education University, and other local organizations, including STEM Synergy: An organization deeply committed to entrepreneurship and career preparedness that expands economic opportunities through deep learning, creativity, and scientific inquiry method to solve real-world problems of society is a local.

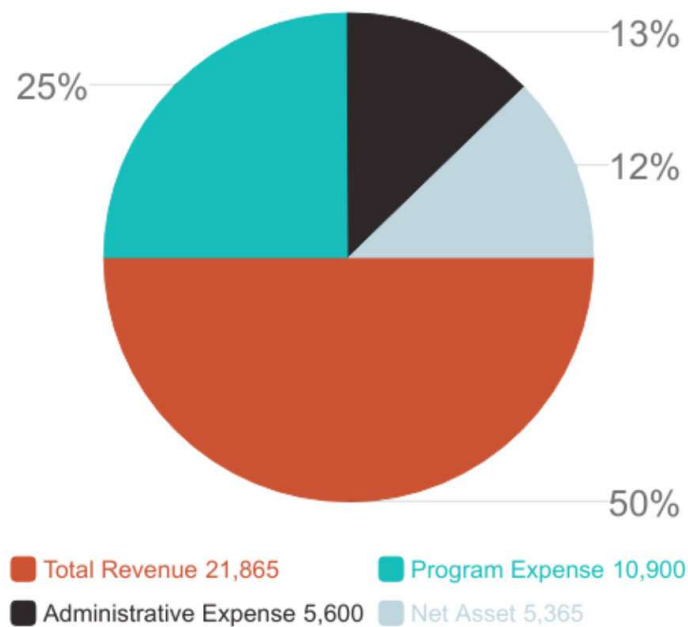
These partnerships have played a pivotal role in developing programs within higher education institutions and initiating a pilot program in collaboration with the University of Gondar. Furthermore, we have made significant progress in expanding our curriculum and planning the first community preschool, catering to 450 children in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia. All involved parties' collective efforts and dedication have made these remarkable accomplishments possible.



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In the past year, we allocated our financial resources towards an exciting project called Project Alpha, which focused on creating an enriching outdoor learning environment and transforming our preschool classroom. Thanks to generous donations from the public, we could fund various aspects of this project, including acquiring new chairs, tables, and shelves for our indoor space and constructing an engaging outdoor playhouse and a functional shed. These infrastructure and learning resources investments have greatly enhanced our teaching and learning capabilities, providing early learners with a dynamic and stimulating environment. We are immensely grateful for the public's support, which has allowed us to make these vital improvements and create a space where children can thrive and reach their full potential.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

We proudly report that we have maintained a solid financial position and implemented effective resource management practices. By generating a total revenue of \$21,865.00, we have allocated \$10,900.00 towards program expenses, ensuring the delivery of our core initiatives. Furthermore, our commitment to prudent financial management is evident through our administrative cost of \$5,600.00, which we carefully controlled.

With minimal expenses, we have maximized the impact of every dollar raised. As a result, we have achieved a net asset value of \$5,365.00, solidifying our financial stability and ensuring the continued success of our organization.

# CONCLUSION

Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support. Your unwavering commitment has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and together, we will continue to create a sustainable future for children in Ethiopia through quality early childhood education.

Looking ahead to 2022, we are excited to embark on our next significant milestone the construction of a community early education program in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia. While it marks the first of many future early learning programs, this initiative holds special significance as it will serve as a blueprint for all subsequent projects undertaken by Early Childhood Education Ethiopia.

**THANK YOU!**

