



EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION ETHIOPIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
ETHIOPIA**





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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In January 2023, Early Childhood Education Ethiopia conducted comprehensive site visits to Debre Tabor and Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, to assess ongoing projects and evaluate their progress. These visits centered on engaging with key stakeholders, including children, parents, teachers, and community members, providing valuable opportunities for direct observation of our educational initiatives' impact on local communities. Through substantive discussions with community members, we gained crucial insights into both the challenges and successes of our projects.

These interactions provided invaluable feedback for assessing program effectiveness while simultaneously strengthening our relationships with local communities. The warmth of our reception was particularly noteworthy, characterized by genuine hospitality, meaningful blessings from community elders, and widespread enthusiasm for our collaborative work.

The community's response powerfully demonstrated the potential for locally led initiatives through our approach of prioritizing indigenous ideas and aspirations for children while promoting educational best practices. We were deeply moved by the community's dedication, their trust in our organization's guidance, and their collaborative spirit.

We are grateful for this moment and look forward to our meeting again in the future.

In Gratitude





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ETHIOPIA

VISION

To provide children with a comprehensive early childhood care and education programs that enables them to become welders of their own destiny.

MISSION

To improve, advance, expand and prioritize early childhood care and education in rural Ethiopia by supporting existing schools, creating new programs, partnering with institutions and implementing a Pk-16 approach in the education system.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The introduction of advanced sanitation technologies like SATO's Single Outlet I Trap Connection toileting system in rural Ethiopian early childhood education centers carries substantial implications for community health, educational outcomes, and gender equity. This strategy illustrates that focused infrastructure investments can address various challenges concurrently. By offering secure, sanitary, and child-appropriate restroom facilities, schools may potentially boost attendance rates, especially among young female students, and minimize the transmission of infectious diseases. Moreover, incorporating proper hygiene practices into daily routines and educational content can establish enduring healthy habits in children from their earliest years. This paradigm of solution-oriented investment in early childhood education could potentially serve as a template for comparable initiatives throughout Africa, possibly resulting in enhanced health outcomes, higher educational achievement, and improved gender balance in school attendance and completion rates.

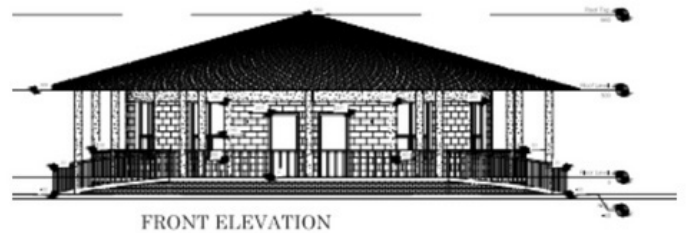






INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

When reflecting on the success of our initial construction phase, we attribute it to our partnerships with crucial organizations. The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) provided exceptional assistance and direction, which is reflected in the concrete results seen in ECEE's preschool construction. ISI is a global leader in sustainable infrastructure, utilizing the Envision sustainable framework, a comprehensive system of criteria and performance measures, to promote environmentally responsible practices. This partnership has spread innovative concepts to local engineers, construction workers, and education officials, highlighting the shared duty in developing sustainable early education programs. It encourages moving away from the traditional method of simply stacking bricks to house children in concrete or temporary structures. This approach challenges the norm by focusing on the process rather than just the end result, consistently asking the crucial question of "why" throughout. For Early Childhood Education Ethiopia, this aligns with our objectives and principles, reinforcing our dedication to expanding our resources while promoting daily environmental responsibility.





TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Education Ethiopia continues to provide teacher training that supports, enhances, and builds a practitioner approach to meet children's learning needs using developmental knowledge. As an organization, we understand the pivotal role of a nurturing learning environment that fosters children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth. By emphasizing the importance of understanding each child's unique developmental stage, teachers are better prepared to tailor their instructional methods and create engaging age-appropriate activities. By focusing on developmental knowledge and individualized learning approaches, ECEE equips educators with the tools necessary to create nurturing environments that support children's holistic growth.



TEACHER EDUCATION

The organization's expansion of its training initiatives to include staff at the Rohobot Orphanage Center in Hawassa marks a significant step towards addressing the unique needs of vulnerable children. This targeted approach ensures that caregivers working with abandoned infants receive specialized training to provide optimal care and stimulation during critical developmental stages. As ECEE continues to evolve and extend its reach, its efforts promise to have a lasting positive impact on early childhood education in Ethiopia, particularly for children who are most in need of support and care.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Approximately 80% of Ethiopia's population resides in the rural areas. These communities possess a wealth of knowledge and cultural resources; however, the inclusion of their identities and contributions has been absent in early education reforms. Early Childhood Education Ethiopia believes that strengthening rural communities leads to measurable achievements in advancing the children's agenda throughout Ethiopia and beyond. Early Childhood Education Ethiopia is predicated on community-led practices. The organization invests in, collaborates with, and employs individuals within the community to implement this significant project. Our success thus far has been because we see the community as the primary vessel for securing sustainable changes. Community meetings are conducted, and ideas are exchanged between organizations and local community leaders, thereby enriching the collective knowledge base. Through mutual learning and collaboration, existing indigenous knowledge and sustainable practices can be applied more effectively to diverse contexts, thus creating a holistic ecosystem that benefits children and advances early education.



EMPOWERING PARENTS, STAFF EDUCATORS

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Moderator
Yonas Assefa

Join us for a
Roundtable Discussion

837 6298 6717



Dr. Yeshimebet Ali
Consultant, Nutrition Food
Security and Health
Wollo University



Dr. Mesenbet Assefa
Professor of Law
Addis Ababa University



Dr. Waganesh Zeleke
Associate Professor, Mental Health
Counseling
Virginia Commonwealth University



Mr. Girma Gadisa
Human Rights Researcher



**Firew Kefyalew
Mekonnen**
Plogging Ethiopia



Dr. Hawani Negussie
Executive Director
Early Childhood Education
Ethiopia



Ato Addisu Makebo
Founder
Rohobot Orphanage



Bezawit Kibret
Counselor, Center for
Victims of Torture



Dr. Molalign Belay
Co-Director Mastercard
Foundation, University
of Gondar

**The State of Children in Ethiopia: A Peaceful, Healthy, and
Thriving Future Begins with What We Do for Children Today**
May 20, 2023

CONFERENCE 2023: THE STATE OF CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA

The 2023 Annual Conference organized by Early Childhood Education Ethiopia aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among professionals across multiple sectors to address complex issues affecting Ethiopian children's well-being. The discussion focused on identifying gaps in existing support systems and proposing innovative and culturally sensitive interventions to enhance child welfare. By bringing together a wide range of perspectives, the conference sought to develop comprehensive strategies that could be implemented at the local, regional, and national levels to create lasting positive changes for Ethiopia's youngest population.

OUR IMPACT

60

**JOB
CREATED**

580

**CHILDREN
SERVED**

MONTHLY

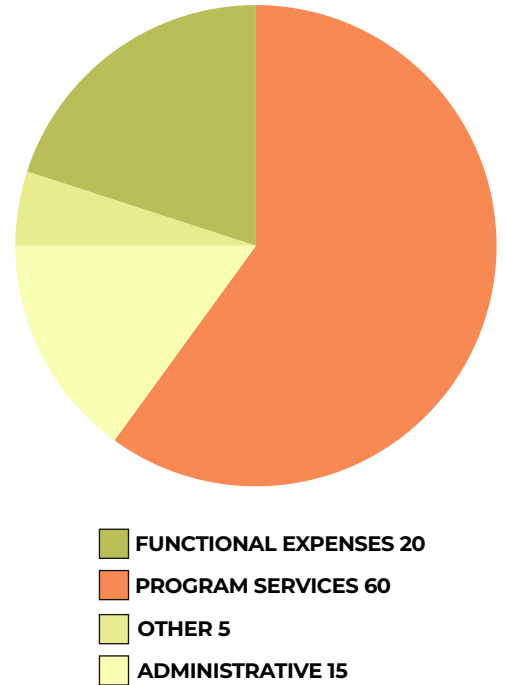
TEACHER TRAINING



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As an organization, we understand the importance of financial stability for the long term success and sustainability of non profit organizations and continue to operate our program by keeping our overhead cost at a minimum, diversifying funding sources, and building adequate reserves to mitigate economic uncertainties. As we grow, we are keen to develop a mix of revenue streams, including grants, individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and earned income from programmes or services. Effective financial management practices such as regular budget reviews, transparent reporting, and strategic planning are incorporated to ensure fiscal health. In addition, annual fundraising cultivates strong donor relationships and explores innovative funding models to enhance our organization financial resilience.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

During 2023, the organization diversified its revenue sources by incorporating funding from the Hilton Foundation and in-kind contributions. The organization also secured partnerships with businesses to provide essential resources and services advancing the mission. Additionally, the ECEE implemented a successful crowdfunding campaign and annual gala that engaged community members and raised funds. These diversified funding sources allowed the organization to expand its programs and reach a wider audience in need of support. The successful crowdfunding campaign not only provided financial support, but also increased community awareness and engagement with the organization's mission. Although the 2023 budget target has not been achieved, these diversification efforts have laid a strong foundation for future growth and financial stability. The organization plans to build upon these initiatives by refining its fundraising strategies and exploring new avenues for revenue generation. By analyzing the successes and challenges of the previous year, ECEE will develop targeted approaches to close the gap between actual and budgeted revenue in the coming year.



FUTURE OUTLOOK

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL PROJECT

The Community Preschool Project in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia, fully entered the construction phase. Construction crews began laying the foundation and erecting the walls of the preschool building, marking a significant milestone in the project timeline. Members of the local community have been actively involved in the building process, with some taking on paid daily work roles and others offering their expertise and time voluntarily to support the initiative. The project is slated for completion in 2025, with plans to open its doors to children in September of that year.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

An innovative assessment tool will be implemented in 2024 as part of a project undertaken by Early Childhood Education Ethiopia. The organization collaborated with an institute to integrate this instrument. Anticipated to improve the quality of early childhood education, this new tool will offer valuable data on children's learning and developmental progress. This cutting-edge approach reflects the organization's dedication to enhancing educational outcomes in Ethiopia. The joint effort between Early Childhood Education Ethiopia and the evaluation agency showcases a progressive strategy for tackling specific challenges and prospects in the country's early education sector.







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