



ETHIOPIAID

TRANSFORMING LIVES IN ETHIOPIA

**BEHEBRET
TOGETHER**

Welcome To Our 2020 Winter Newsletter



This has been a challenging year for the charity sector. I must admit at the beginning of lockdown I was very worried about the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable communities we work with in Ethiopia, and also on our own ability to continue raising funds to support them.

As I am sure you are aware, many charities have experienced a significant drop in income and have had to reduce activities, and either furlough or make staff redundant. Some have even had to cease trading. I am glad to report that this has not been the case at Ethiopiaid. We have been so fortunate that you, our donors, have stuck by us and continued to support us through this difficult time. I have found it incredibly humbling that through all the uncertainty and economic hardship, donors from across the island of Ireland, have all spared a thought for our partners in Ethiopia, and given what you can to help.

We have been so fortunate that you, our donors, have stuck by us and continued to support us through this difficult time.

Thanks to you, we have been able to honour our usual annual grants to our partners and help them through the turmoil of the pandemic. On page 10 you can learn about how exactly our partners responded to the additional challenges of COVID-19.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our donors in response to our emergency appeal in July. After years of drought, the pastoralist people of the Afar region in Ethiopia suffered a devastating loss of crops and livestock when swarms of locusts descended on the land. Thanks to your generosity we raised over €20,000 to help these families.

Providing support to Ethiopian organisations in need would not have been possible without your continued support and loyalty. In fact, loyalty is the overarching factor that has fuelled Ethiopiaid through these dark months: loyalty from you our wonderful supporters; loyalty from our partners who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to provide essential services and keep their communities safe; loyalty from our dedicated Ethiopiaid staff team who have maintained a high level of professionalism and motivation despite working from kitchen tables and bedrooms at home; and loyalty from our Board of Trustees who have volunteered their time and expertise via Zoom to mitigate risk and ensure that the charity remains well governed. I am so grateful to you all for your contribution and support. In a time of separation and social distance we have been able

to draw strength from all this loyalty, and continue our efforts to create meaningful change. Together we can realise our mission to break the cycle of poverty in Ethiopia and enable the poorest and most vulnerable to live with dignity, build resilience and achieve sustainable solutions to the challenges they face.

It is hard to know what 2021 will bring, but I hope you will take inspiration from the stories you read in this newsletter and feel proud of the work you support and make possible. I would like to personally wish you and your loved ones a peaceful, festive season and much health and happiness for the year ahead.



Warmest wishes,
Alex Chapman

Alexandra Chapman
Chair



Surviving Violence, Looking Forward to the Future

The Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) supports women and girls to rebuild their lives after suffering abuse and violence.

With five safe houses across Ethiopia the need for AWSAD's services has never been greater than right now. Women and girls, some as young as two years old, are given such love and care to help heal them emotionally and physically. They receive support for all of their needs, including: skills training, self-defence classes and support to bring perpetrators to justice in the courts.

AWSAD's safe houses are not just safe spaces, they are a home, a family, a place of hope and of new beginnings.



Mekedes' story

Mekedes was referred to AWSAD after seeking the help of her school teacher, after she had been beaten and raped by her brother over the course of five years.

"The first person I met when I arrived at the safe house gates was the House Mother. She was calm and warm and immediately provided me with clothes, a bed, sanitary products and introduced me to the other residents. I was fed three nutritious meals a day and was given sanitary pads to help me manage the bleeding (I was bleeding constantly as a result of the frequent sexual abuse). For the first time in years I felt safe - I even had warm water for a shower."

Mekedes chose to train in hairdressing whilst living at the safe house. AWSAD were impressed by how quickly she had learnt, and how well she supported other women who were struggling with certain aspects of the training.

When Mekedes felt ready to leave the shelter, AWSAD supported her exit and

gave her a mattress, blanket, and help with her first month's rent.

A year after she left the safe house, AWSAD offered her a job as the hairdressing trainer back at the safe house. Mekedes was delighted and has since trained hundreds of women to become hairdressers. Mekedes is now 26 years old and she is a well-respected member of staff and role model to the women and girls.



€18

pays for clothing, soap and personal hygiene items for one survivor



€37

is the cost of feeding one survivor for three months

Life with a Disability

In Ethiopia having a disability inevitably means social exclusion, discrimination and fewer employment opportunities. For children, this can often lead to them dropping out of school, bringing an end to any hope of leaving poverty behind.

Kerudin's story

For 12-year old Kerudin, who was born with bilateral neglected congenital club feet, staying in school was important. Despite facing discrimination from his own family and peers, he was determined to complete his education.

Kerudin's family live in Oromio, where they make a living from farming. His father passed away when he was only eight years old and when his mother remarried, he moved to live with his uncle. He soon realised that his uncle intended for him to look after his goat herd while his cousins attended school. Kerudin knew that an education was important but when he returned to his family home he was not welcome and was told to leave. Thankfully his second uncle took him in and supported his schooling. But sadly, like so many children living with disabilities, the stigma and bullying he faced was just too much and forced him to leave.

Cheshire Services found Kerudin after he was referred to their outreach programme in Jima. After an initial assessment, Kerudin was admitted to Cheshire's rehabilitation centre at Menagesha where, after surgery, he stayed for a year to undergo intensive rehabilitation.

During this time Kerudin was fitted with an Ankle Foot Orthotics device

and benefited from specialist treatments such as gait training, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, plaster of paris application fortnightly, as well as counselling services. His education was also supported, with informal education classes, basic computer lessons and farm skills such as poultry keeping and vegetable growing.

Kerudin's life has been turned around and his future is much brighter. Supported by Cheshire's outreach team he is seen every six months to make sure he remains fit, mobile and supported to stay in school.

"I never thought I would stand straight and walk like my friends" – Kerudin



€17 will provide a prosthetic limb

€22 will support residential rehabilitation of a child for one month



€250 will build a specialist rough rider wheelchair



Kerudin before surgery



Kerudin after surgery

Ending FGM – from cutter to advocate

In the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) who better to advocate for change than the cutters themselves.



Haddi's story

Haddi Abdu is a 50 year old traditional birth attendant (TBA) in the Afar region.

She was 25 years old when she first started training to be a TBA – not long after the death of her aunt (who was an experienced TBA). The pastoralist community she lived in decided that Haddi would be their nominated TBA, as she had been helping her aunt with deliveries for some months and had learnt a lot from her.

She did just what she had seen her aunt do: support delivery once the mother was able to push the baby out and, if the baby was a girl, undertake female genital mutilation before the baby was 10 days old.

Haddi used a makiita (a traditional cutting knife in Afar) and a big metal needle, normally used to sew up palm leaf mats. The latter was used to remove the clitoris. She used the spikes of thorn trees to hold the scar together once she had cut off the labia or, in some cases, just roped the baby's legs together from the hip to stop the bleeding.

APDA met Haddi four years ago when Hasna Hamad – one of APDA's talented female extension workers – retrained her and other TBAs to cease the practice of FGM.

From her very first training session, Haddi says her eyes have been truly opened at seeing the hardship and suffering of Afar mothers in childbirth. Before, she says that it seemed inevitable that some mothers and babies would die. She no longer believes this.

During her training, Haddi was devastated to understand that in fact, she had been cutting off part of the body that was considered to be made by God and that this was against the teachings of Islam. APDA's extension workers initiate

discussion among the TBAs, helping them understand how the babies suffer – and that some even die from the bleeding. Haddi shared with the group that she had seen two babies die as a result of blood loss.

All the training began to make sense to Haddi, as the group talked of many examples they had all seen of mothers getting infected and the problem of getting the baby out, with FGM having closed up the vagina.

Haddi has not cut a baby girl now for three years and is working tirelessly with Hasna – visiting community meetings across Afar – to convince

all other TBAs how dangerous this practice is.



€29 will help retrain a traditional cutter



€55 pays a month's salary for an extension worker

Dignity Period

Meet Yirgalem, one of the women who makes the reusable pads for Dignity Period

"My name is Yirgalem and I have worked at the Mariam Seba Sanitary Products Factory for nine years. After completing high school I was looking for a job and I learned that the factory was looking for applicants and I applied. I had no idea what the factory did but needed to find work.

When I was recruited, the factory gave me orientation and training. It was during the training that I learned about the factory producing reusable pads. I had never heard about reusable pads before, but was one of the first women to use the pads we made.

It was because of my work here that I was able to be secure, lead a married life and have children. What is so special about the factory is that I don't have to worry about my young children as there is a child care centre. So our kids are here with us all day every day.

My family is happy about the services I get here and the ample opportunities provided to employees.

€4
will provide
a pack for
one girl



I have now been promoted to production manager. The factory is like my second home and I am happy."

The Mariam Seba Factory only employs local young women who are unable to find employment and at risk of falling deeper into poverty. Onsite childcare is unusual in Ethiopia and for these women it means that they can keep their job knowing their child is safe. This is a project that supports both the employees and the school girls for whom the pads are made. To date, over 336,000 students have received an education booklet and free reusable sanitary pads made by Yirgalem and her co-workers. The improvement to girls' school attendance and reduction in drop-out rates has been dramatic. Girls are now finishing their education and creating better futures for themselves.



We want to reach **20,000** girls in 2021



Providing pads reduces school absenteeism by **24%**

A Dignity Period pack includes 4 re-usable pads & 2 x pairs of underwear



USE YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH OUR FILM

Climbing the Ladders of Hope

Imagine what it must be like for a child living on the streets of Ethiopia: forced to beg for money, discarded scraps of food, any job they can find for a few birr. In Addis Ababa it is estimated that there are over 60,000 children who spend their days on the streets.

Our partner Hope Enterprises supports over 400 street children with a daily breakfast of bread, banana and milk. But it is so much more than just a breakfast.



From street child to skilled carpenter

Solomon Fekadu is 16 years old. He lives in a family of six with his mother, brother and three sisters. Solomon does not remember his father, as he sadly died when Solomon was very young. Life became very difficult and dark after his father died. Solomon's mother was struggling to provide for the family.

Life was hard for the family, there were many days that passed without meals. Solomon began to scour the streets to search for food. During this time, Solomon heard from some of the other children about Hope Enterprises and their Street Children's Breakfast programme.

Solomon signed up to the programme when he was eight years old. He is now a 9th grade student and Hope have been supporting him for over eight years, providing him with textbooks, school uniforms and daily breakfast.

"I began to go to school proud, with a full stomach, and started to see my future as bright after I joined Hope."

Solomon now works as an assistant carpenter and earns a small amount of money. His ambition is to be a teacher, after graduating from university.

He said "Hope Enterprises is my father and my family. Thanks to the donors my future is bright."

For street children, trying to survive during the current COVID-19 pandemic is unimaginable. With the general population in lockdown, jobs that earned street dwellers a pittance, like labouring, carrying goods or selling food, have vanished. We know that when there is a crisis it is always the poorest who are hardest hit.



€21 pays for emergency food packages for 3 children for a month

€9 buys soap and sanitiser



€92 will buy a breakfast for a street child for one year

Emergency Appeal Update

At the beginning of the year, we shared with you news of the devastating locust and drought crisis that was sweeping across the Afar region in northern Ethiopia.

Since 2015, we have been working with the Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) to protect communities who have been impacted by flooding, droughts, food insecurity, displacement, plagues and disease outbreaks.

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to send €20,000 directly to APDA to enable them to deliver urgent and lifesaving support to families and communities affected by the ongoing locust swarms.

Your donations in action:

Malnutrition screening and treatment for 38,000 adults in Afar.



Carry out monthly nutrition screening for 829 children under 5 years old.



Treatment for 252 children identified as severely malnourished.



Emergency food aid provided to 800 pregnant and breast-feeding mothers.



Medication and fodder for 44,149 starving livestock.



What are the challenges ahead?

This year has seen massive locust swarms devastating crops and pasture, causing severe malnutrition, loss of livelihoods and livestock deaths. Then came the global pandemic with restrictions on travel, social distancing and the closure of markets, leaving people without a means of earning an income. Now these same communities are recovering from flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall. APDA report that over 40,731 of their beneficiaries have been displaced.

Pastoralists communities in Afar are increasingly experiencing climate shocks such as drought and flood. Food security and poor health are constant threats. But the Afar people are incredibly resourceful and resilient, and we will continue to work closely with APDA to support families that are overlooked or unable to access emergency aid distribution points.

APDA have the expertise to respond quickly and appropriately during crises so that the most vulnerable are reached.

The safety net that Ethiopiaaid supporters help to provide is so very important. Thanks to you, we have been able to fund water resilience projects so that when drought hits, communities have access to stored water for longer. Malnourished pregnant mothers and children have received medicine and food aid. In addition, veterinary care and extra fodder has meant livestock can survive and continue producing critically needed milk.

While 2021 will no doubt see further threats to food security and health, we will be monitoring closely and assisting APDA where we can, so that communities can survive, build resilience and hopefully one day thrive.



HELPING OUR PARTNERS DURING COVID-19

You are helping us to support our partners to not only survive the immediate challenges of COVID-19, but to also recover and be prepared for the future.

So far **€150,000** has been sent to our partners this year. This has been made possible solely because of your generosity.

Funding has ensured that:

- people do not go hungry
- fistula surgeries continue
- survivors of abuse and violence have safe shelter
- girls are supported to return to schools when they reopen
- midwives can help mothers living in remote areas to deliver safely
- disabled households have the food and support needed to survive
- soap, masks and sanitisers are distributed to help stop the spread of the virus.

We cannot thank you enough, especially when many of you may also be experiencing your own struggles. Thank you for staying with us.

There is one common feeling that unites us: thankfulness

Whether it's for medical services, teachers, essential workers or friends and family, thankfulness is found everywhere we look.

It is important to us that we share with you our thankfulness for all of your support this year. And so, we'd like to share with you a few words from our partners in Ethiopia.

“Your support has made a big difference in the life of abused women and girls -you stood with us in our sorrow, you helped us ease our pain. Your support has lightened our burdens. Thank you -AWSAD”

“Thank you Ethiopiaid Supporters for being a source of hope for these last 30 years to the poorest of the poor in Ethiopia. Thank you for such exemplary compassion. - Hope Enterprises”

“Your support has and is doing amazing things in the Afar Region because you graciously care for the Afar people. We thank you with all our heart. - Afar Pastoralist Development Association”

“Thank you Ethiopiaid for the wonderful job you do and have done in Ethiopia - Chesire Services”

“I thank you very much for all the great work you are doing for fistula patients who are underprivileged and very poor. - Fistula Surgeon”

“Thank you very much for supporting and funding young girls. You may not know them, but I am sure you feel their gratitude in your hearts. - Mekelle University, Dignity Period”

From our partners in Ethiopia to our staff team in Ireland, we'd like to extend our deepest gratitude for all your support, generosity, loyalty and kindness during 2020.



We are so grateful to everyone who has continued to fundraise for us

One of the biggest highlights was when **Nuala and her husband Vincent** held a dinner to fundraise for AWSAD. The director and co-founder of AWSAD, Maria Munir, was in Ireland and attended as the guest of honour. Maria's speech about the survivors of gender based violence moved guests to raise over **€20,000** for AWSAD. Thank you Nuala and Vincent for your incredible work!



Maria Munir

Niamh challenged herself to run 10km in aid of Ethiopiaid! Living near Phoenix Park, Niamh was able to raise over **€1,000** from family and friends! Well done Niamh and thank you so much.



Niamh

St Brigid's College in Callan, Kilkenny raised over **€300**. Thank you to everyone in St Brigid's for your wonderful support.

Sadly, there isn't enough space to mention everyone who has fundraised for us. But please know that you are all making a huge difference. Thank you to each and every one of you!

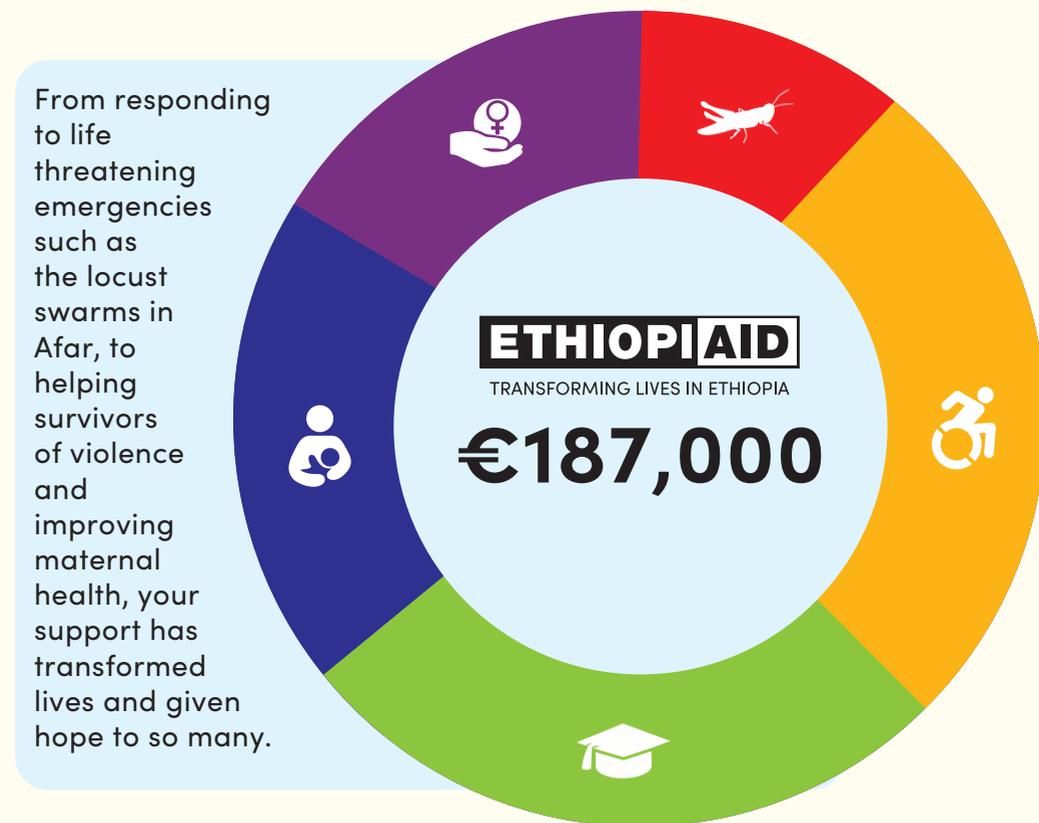
If you have a great idea you want to put into action, or have been longing for a sense of community over the past few months, we have two Fundraising Packs full of ideas and tips for safe fundraising and within government guidelines - from a personal challenge to hosting a virtual talent show or coffee ceremony.

Both packs can be downloaded from our website at <https://ethiopiaid.ie/how-you-can-help/fundraise-for-us/>

For support or further information please email frances@ethiopiaid.ie

Putting your gifts to work

By the end of 2020, we are expecting €187,000 to have reached our partners in Ethiopia - raised through your generosity.



 Locust swarms emergency
€20,000

 Education
€50,000

 Survivors of abuse & violence
€30,000

 Disabilities & visual impairments
€50,000

 Obstetric fistula & maternal health
€37,000

Create lasting change in a community by making your Will

Have you written your Will? If the answer is NO, you are not alone. Up to two thirds of adults in Ireland don't have one either.

The idea of making a will can be intimidating, but once done it offers serious peace of mind. Knowing that your loved ones will be looked after and that your wishes will be respected is invaluable.

First of all make a note of the following:

- Everything of value to you, what their financial value is and where they are.
- Your nearest relatives.
- Your guardian(s) for children, if applicable.
- Your executors ie the person or people (at least 2) who will ensure your final wishes are carried out.
- How you want to divide everything of value to you – all of the money, property, assets, interests and things of value.

The next step is to contact a solicitor who can guide you through the process and makes your will a legal document.

Did you know we are a member of My Legacy, along with 70 other Irish charities?

Member of
my legacy

A legacy is a gift to a person or charity in your will. It is a privilege and an honour for us to receive legacies from our supporters and we are forever thankful.

Supporters who leave gifts in their Will provide us with the financial stability to enable confident and swift decision-making. This means that we can be there when our partners need us, from getting significant projects off the ground to responding to a crisis.

We already have many supporters who have left a gift in their Will for Ethiopiaaid as they believe in our vision of an Ethiopia in which every person has access to quality education, healthcare and a life of dignity. A residuary gift is a popular way, as this is what is left over from the estate once family and friends have been provided for. These gifts are often expressed as a percentage so they are not affected by inflation, rather than a pecuniary gift which is a fixed sum of money and can decrease over time. Inspired to leave a gift in your Will or would like to know more?

Please do get in touch by
email: frances@ethiopiaid.ie
or telephone: 01 677 5188

"The people of Ethiopia are dynamic and engaging enough to create change for themselves, if given the chance. Your legacy could be that chance."

- Sir Alec Reed, Founder of Ethiopiaaid

Make A Donation



Set up a direct debit to make a regular gift



Send a cheque or postal order



Make a credit or debit card donation



Make a fast and secure online payment at: ethiopiaid.ie



Give over the phone on: 01 677 5188

Our team is currently working from home so it may take a little longer to get back to you or process requests, but please do continue contacting us.

MAJOR DONORS & LEGACIES

Philanthropy and legacies enable opportunities for significant change. If you are considering giving in this way please contact us to discuss how you can engage with our work. Contact frances@ethiopiaid.ie or call: **01 677 5188**

FUNDRAISE FOR US

We have lots of ideas - including donations as wedding or birthday gifts or taking on a challenge. Take a look at "How you can help" on our website.

TELL OTHERS

Share this newsletter with friends and family and encourage others to support us in whatever way they can.

Tax Reclaim

The Charitable Donations scheme allows charities to reclaim tax on donations of at least €250 made by an Irish taxpayer in any year. This means your donations could be worth up to 45% more to us at no extra cost to you. If you fill out the CHY3 or CHY4 form we can claim back from the government up to 45c from every €1 you donate.

Go to <https://ethiopiaid.ie/how-you-can-help/tax-efficient-giving/>



It's quick and simple to fill out the tax reclaim form, simply get in touch with us.

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Please note names have been changed in the case studies and some library images used, to protect anonymity. In the unlikely event that all the donations cannot be applied to the featured projects, they will, at the Trustees' discretion, be applied to the furtherance of the charity's aims.