



ChildFund  
Ethiopia

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ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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[www.childfund.org](http://www.childfund.org)



**ChildFund is a child-focused international development organization that works throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, wherever they are.**



### Our Vision

A world where every child realizes their rights and achieves their potential.



### Our Mission

**HELP** deprived, excluded and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

**PROMOTE** societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

**ENRICH** supporters' lives through their support of our cause.



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# Abbreviations

<b>AIDO</b>	Addis Integrated Development Organization
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CPIE</b>	Child Protection in Emergency
<b>CV</b>	Curriculum Vitae
<b>DE&amp;I</b>	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
<b>FGD</b>	Focal Group Discussion
<b>FHIDO</b>	Future Hope Integrated Development Organization
<b>GFFO</b>	German Federal Foreign Office
<b>GSS</b>	Global Support Service
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>ICT</b>	Information, Communication and Technology
<b>IGA</b>	Income Generating Activities
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee
<b>JF-CPIE</b>	Joint Forces – Child Protection in Emergency
<b>LP</b>	Local Partner
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PEF</b>	Partnership Effectiveness Fund
<b>PLW</b>	Pregnant, Lactating Women
<b>RTN</b>	Reach The Needy
<b>SNNPR</b>	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Region
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education Training
<b>VCT</b>	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loans Association
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

# Country Director’s Note

## Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that I share with you some of the achievements of ChildFund Ethiopia during the FY23 (July 2022- June 2023). In July 2022, the war that was going on between the TPLF and ENDF had brought the country to the brink of breaking point, the displacement numbers were well over 4 million, and children and women were the most affected. Schools had been closed for almost 2 years in most areas in northern Ethiopia and the economy has been destroyed. In November 2022, exactly two years after the start of the war in November 2020, the warring parties agreed on a ceasefire that was brokered in South Africa, which was followed by the peace agreement signed in Kenya in February 2023. Apart from the war between Tigray and Federal State, there were other multiple conflicts throughout the country and especially in Oromia, and Amhara which also affected our regular programs in 5 of our areas.

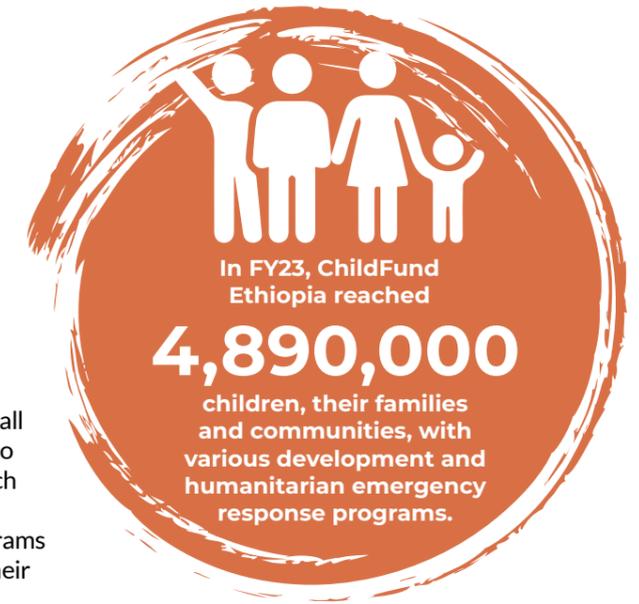
During this period, ChildFund firmly established its humanitarian footprint and supported the displaced populations in Amhara Region and aggressively sought funds to support the conflict-affected populations. We started direct implementation operations in Northern Amhara with Joining Forces – Child Protection in Emergencies (JF-CPIE) project funded by GFFO and Education in Emergencies (EiE) – Playmatters project funded by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). We also commenced operations in Tigray together with Children Believe in March 2023. The Emergency unit team grew in numbers reaching 11 persons.

The reported program participants reach increased to 4.89 million children, their families and communities. The exponential reach resulted from the increased use of media and technology. The local implementing partners also reported adopting the use of media (radio/TV) to deliver the Lego Foundation funded-Come Play With Me project and other projects as well. During FY23, ChildFund continued to support the 13 Local partners through the sponsorship program, and 5 of the Local Partners also received grant

funding from other donors. Over and above our regular sponsorship funds we raised an additional \$2.94M through grants acquisition. We would like to extend our gratitude to all our sponsors, who continued to generously give to help us reach all the sponsored and enrolled families with meaningful programs that improved the quality of their lives.

We also want to thank all the 13 Local implementing partners and volunteers who worked tirelessly amid the constraints of the insecure environment to ensure sponsored and enrolled children were able to continue communicating with their sponsors. Our appreciation also goes to all our donors, strategic, and funding partners who helped us expand our reach in both the development and humanitarian sectors.

Overall we can look back with pride on the great strides we have made and look forward to yet another wonderful year ahead, connecting even more children with people, institutions, resources and services they need to reach their full potential in this ever-changing environment.



**LILLY OMONDI**

# About ChildFund

ChildFund is a child-focused international development organization. Operating across Asia, Africa, and the Americas, ChildFund endeavors to connect children with the essential resources, individuals, and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, regardless of their location.

The organization collaborates with more than 150 local implementing partner organizations to address the underlying conditions hindering children and youth from realizing their full potential.

Emphasizing child protection in its approach, ChildFund recognizes the detrimental impact of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect on developmental progress.

In FY 23, ChildFund reached over 21.1 million children and family members across Africa, Asia, and the Americas through programs, services, and informative broadcasts.



# ChildFund Ethiopia

ChildFund Ethiopia, operational since 1971, currently supports 13 community-based child development programs across six regions: Amhara, Oromia, Southern Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, and Addis Ababa. The organization supports 39,678 children enrolled in the sponsorship program, 48,682 families, 107,224 siblings directly, and reaches 4.89 million community members.

Supported by over 412 community-based volunteers and 52,228 home-based caregivers, ChildFund Ethiopia primarily focuses on long-term community development, ensuring access to healthcare, early childhood development, livelihood, nutrition, education, safety, and capable caregivers throughout children's lives.

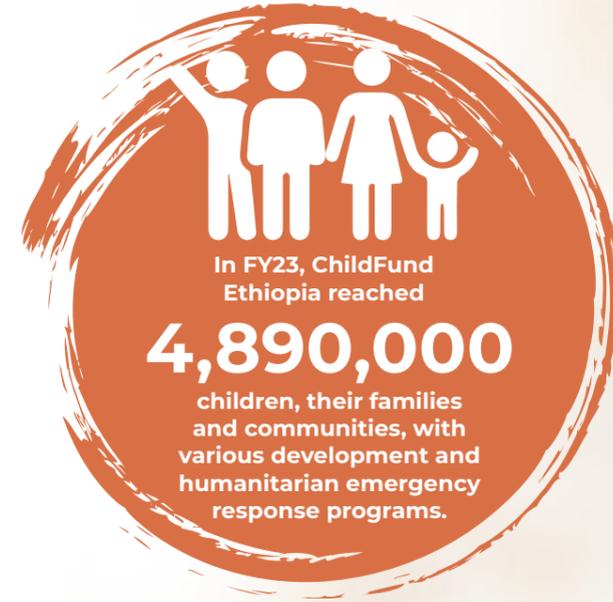
Due to the volatile climatic and conflict situation in the country, ChildFund seeks to respond to both man-made and natural disasters as they occur with a special focus on Child Protection in Emergencies, Education in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Funded by individual sponsors, governments, and bilateral/multilateral donors, ChildFund Ethiopia engages in both development and emergency relief and disaster mitigation programs, with a primary focus on children and their families.

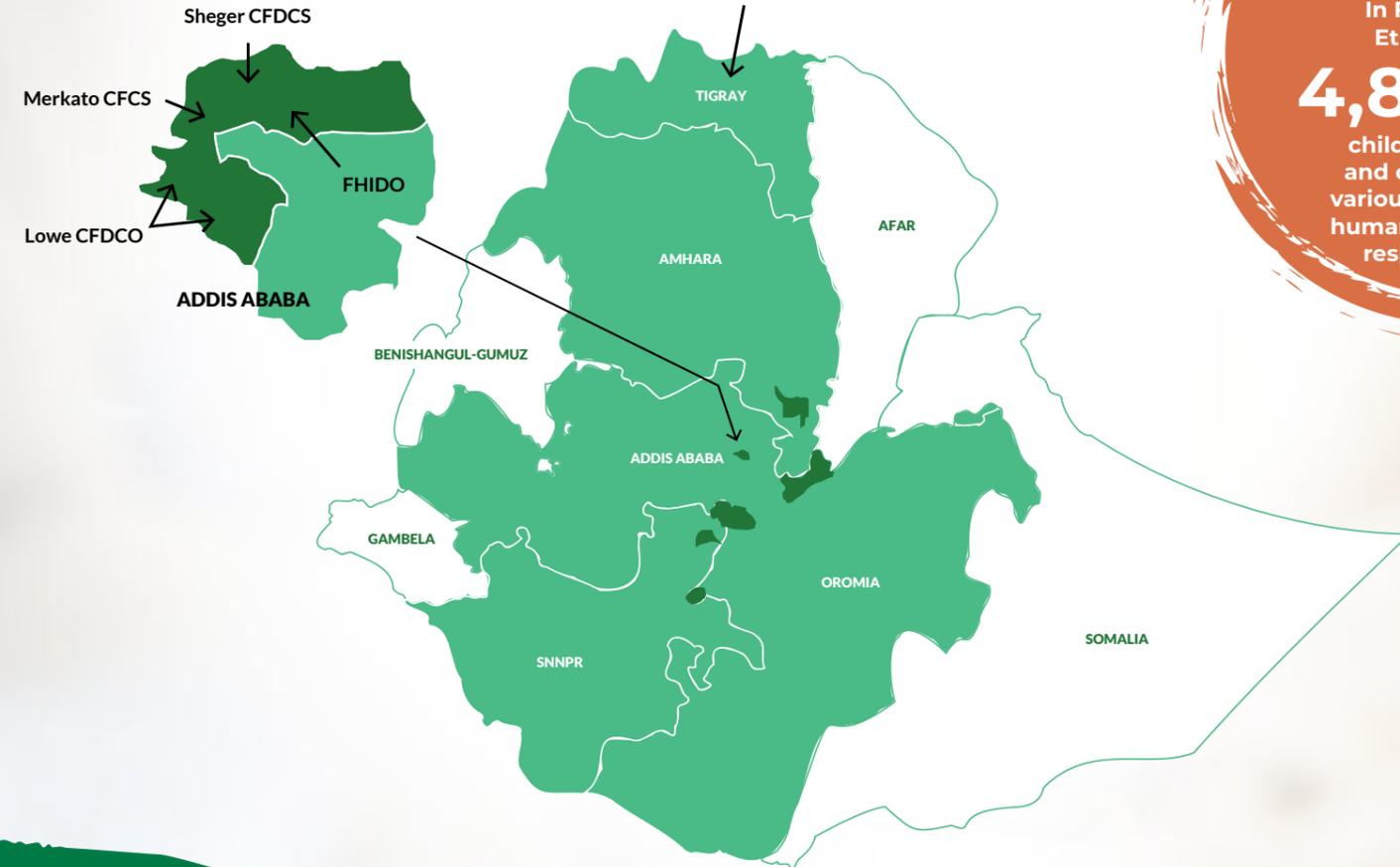
The organization has established strong relationships with international, national, and community-based organizations, academia, private sector partners, as well as central and district local governments.



# Geographic Coverage



In collaboration with Children Believe, we commenced the implementation of our Tigray Humanitarian Response Project in FY23.



REGION	Local Partners	Operational Areas	
		Name of woreda/kebele	Number of kebeles (communities)
ADDIS ABABA	Future Hope Integrated Development Organization	Arada Sub-city: Woreda 1, 2, 3, 4 5, and 10	6
	Love for Children and Family Development Charitable Organization	Nifas Silk Lafto: W 02 and Kolfe Keraneio: W 01	2
	Addis Integrated Development Organization	Addis ketema sub-city: W 06 & 07	2
	Sheger Child and Family Development Charitable Society	Gulele sub-city: Woreda 4, 5 & woreda 7	3
	EOC-CFAO Genete Eyesus Child and family Development Program Coordination Office	Yeka sub-city: W 01 & 02	2
AMHARA	TesfaBirhan Child and Family Development Organization	Sariya, Chiraro Debir, Addisge, Bakelo, Keyit, Abamotie, Gudoberet, Gudoberet Zuria and Bassodengora Kebeles of Bassona Worana and 01, 02, 06 & 08 Kebeles of Debre Berhan town	13
SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES AND PEOPLES REGION	Silti-Aynage Child and Family Development Organization	Silti: Agode Lobrera, Boze Sabola, Kibet 01, Kibet 02, Koto Balosa, Senena Gerera, Weliya Sidist, Agode Lobrera silti, Dobo Bedeno silti, Koto Balosa silti, and Senena Gerera	12
	Sodo-Buee Child and Family Development Charitable Organization	Sodo: Anati, Adazer, Buee zuria, Buee town, Firshi, Suten zuria, Sewatinagedam, Wachomoregi, and Wudegetnagerfessa	9
	Reach the Needy-Ethiopia	Dilla zuria: Golla, Michile sisota and Chichu; Wonago: Jemjemo, Balebukisa and Tumata chericha	6
OROMIA	Care for Children and Family Organization	Boset: Geri, Feto, Borchota, Degaga, Migra and Wolenchiti-01	6
	Dugda Children and Family Charitable Organization	Dugda: Bole, Hate Leman, Giraba Korke Adi, Tepo Choroke, Oda, Oda Bokota, Melka Dubisa,	7
	Future Generation Organization	Fentale: Metahara, Haro adi, Gola, Alge, Gelcha & Ilala	6
	Siraro Child and Family Development Association	Siraro: Ropi town, Ropi sinta, Boye awarkasa, Alemtena Sirbo & Damine Leman	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>79</b>

# Program Priorities



CHILD PROTECTION



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING



ADVOCACY



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



CLIMATE ACTION

## Our Programming Approach

Children's needs change as they grow, this is why we tailor our interventions to different developmental needs as they progress from infancy through young adulthood.



**LIFE STAGE 1**  
Healthy and Secure Infants  
(0-5 years old)



**LIFE STAGE 2**  
Educated and Confident Children  
(6-14 years old)



**LIFE STAGE 3**  
Skilled and Involved Youth  
(15-24 years old)

# Early Childhood Development

## The Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) Project

The Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) project, spearheaded by ChildFund Ethiopia in collaboration with partners and support from the International Development Research Center (IDRC), is making significant strides in the realm of Early Childhood Development (ECD).

The project's primary objective is to implement and evaluate the impact of subsidized and enhanced quality community-based childcare services on improving women's economic well-being and empowerment, all while fostering ECD.

A pivotal aspect of the initiative involves the formation of 16 Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), each comprising 20 members. These SHGs play a central role in the project's execution, convening weekly meetings, engaging in savings and internal lending activities, and participating in various income generation activities (IGA). Simultaneously, these women's children are cared for in specialized childcare centers established by the project.



**120**  
women were supported through GrOW project to access quality community-based childcare services and engage in economic activities.



Women in Adama Town, Oromia Region, participating in a Self-Help Savings group under the GrOW project.

Executing this multifaceted endeavor are key implementing partners: ChildFund Ethiopia, Children Believe, and Tesfa Berhan Child and Family Development Organization. Notably, Addis Ababa University, a leading institution in Ethiopia, is an integral part of the consortium. The university is actively involved in conducting action research aimed at generating evidence to inform the revision of Ethiopia's ECD and Education policy. This involves engaging with diverse stakeholders and policymakers.

The collaborative efforts of these organizations not only address the immediate needs of women by enhancing their economic opportunities but also contribute to the broader goal of promoting ECD. By combining practical interventions with rigorous research, the project aims to create a lasting impact on the lives of women and children in Ethiopia, influencing policy and fostering positive change in the realm of ECD and Education.

**“The GrOW project focuses on reducing women’s care burden through the establishment of childcare centers. The research team is testing the provision of quality and affordable community-based childcare centers in 3 urban and peri-urban sites. The cluster-randomized trial also tests the effectiveness of basic employment and business skills training for mothers and community advocacy to change social norms around gender equality and women’s unpaid care work.”**

## SUCCESS STORY

**M** eet Seble Aschale, a 35-year-old mother of two. Seble lives in Adama town south of Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. She has a 15-year-old daughter, Alem, from her first marriage and a 3-year-old son, Hailu, from her second.

For as long as she can remember, providing for her family has always been a struggle. Her husband who works at a local administration office earns \$54 per month. This is not enough to meet the family's monthly expenses, which include buying food, school supplies and paying house rent.

**“** Since life had become unbearably expensive, I could not manage to support my firstborn child, Alem. She wanted to live with me, but I was not able to provide for her. So, her father took her to his home.” Sable said.

For many years, I would go around the neighborhood washing people's clothes in their homes. But since that was not enough, I had a second job. I would bake injera (Ethiopia's staple food, a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread made of teff flour) and sell in the neighborhood. I would do all this while carrying my baby Hailu on my back. On a good day, I would make a total of \$2, she narrates. “But what is \$2 in this economy? Even after working so hard, I still could not manage to feed my family. I would be forced to go and bring food from my parents' house, which was quite embarrassing.”

Seble and her 3-year-old son Hailu, standing outside a ChildFund-supported childcare center in Adama Town.



**L** uckily for Seble, life eventually changed for good after ChildFund and Children Believe enrolled her in the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) project. “I was very happy to be enrolled in this project. They said the project was for mothers with very low income and that their goal was to help us improve our economic status by enabling us to work so that we can be able to provide for our families.”

“All these years, I would carry Hailu on my back while going to work. I was overjoyed when they told me that I could now take him to a daycare center while I go to work. I had never heard of anything like that before!” exclaimed Seble.

The lack of childcare services affects women's employment and economic opportunities. This project seeks to fill this gap by testing the effectiveness of a community-based childcare model in improving the economic well-being of poor working mothers across urban and peri-urban contexts. For this reason, ChildFund and Children Believe have established and equipped 6 childcare centers that host a total of 120 children. Each center accommodates 20 children.

In addition, the project has trained Seble and other women on small business management skills and supported them to form Self-Help groups through which they can save money and access loans. Through the group, she gets loans that have enabled her to save, start and expand her business.

**“** I started by borrowing \$0.18 from my husband every week to save. After 4 months, I took a loan of \$36. I used this money to open a small shop where I sell tella (a homemade traditional drink). I could earn from \$1.8 to \$5.4 a week,” Seble recounts. “Then I increased my weekly savings to \$1.8, which enabled me to take successive loans amounting to \$90 which I used to expand my business. Today, I can earn about \$1.8 per week. I want my business to grow so that I never have to go around borrowing.”

“My income has increased to the extent that I can now buy school uniforms and exercise books for my daughter. If her father agrees, I plan to bring her to my home so that she can live better with me and spend time with her brother. I also want to be an inspiration to other women who may be struggling financially. Now, I can buy food for my family and feed my children without worry,” she added.

## Advancing gender equality in the world of work

Seble is among 120 women in Ethiopia who are participating in the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) – East Africa project in Adama Town, Oromia Region. Jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the International Development Research Centre, this initiative focuses on reducing women's care burden through the establishment of childcare centers. The research team is testing the provision of quality and affordable community-based childcare centers in three urban and peri-urban sites. The cluster-randomized trial also tests the effectiveness of basic employment and business skills training for mothers and community advocacy to change social norms around gender equality and women's unpaid care work. The goal is to identify interventions that can be scaled up to improve the economic well-being of women and improve their participation in the labor market. This project is implemented by ChildFund, in collaboration with Children Believe, Tesfa Berhan Child and Family Development Organization and Addis Ababa University.



Three-year-olds, Hailu (right) and Eshe playing at the childcare center.

# Come Play with Me

With support from the LEGO Foundation, ChildFund implemented a multi-country initiative, known as the “Come Play with Me” project, spanning across Brazil, Ethiopia, Honduras, and Uganda.

This concerted effort aims to address the educational and socio-emotional needs of children aged 0-8 and their caregivers, exacerbated by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Ethiopia, the project’s approach focused on equipping parents and caregivers with effective strategies for playful parenting. Employing a hybrid model that combines in-person interactions and virtual methods, such as broadcasting radio spots on ECD, the initiative strives to foster positive development in children. The multifaceted activities include the creation and broadcasting of culturally relevant radio spots in four local languages, targeted at parents and caregivers.

Additionally, it involves the production and distribution of Information Education Communication (IEC) materials, organization of in-person meetings for caregivers, specifically parenting group listenership sessions, and support for establishing child-friendly spaces in Internally Displaced People’s (IDP) camps. With a reach exceeding 35,000 children and their parents or caregivers, the project has achieved notable successes.

## Key achievements include:



**Listenership Sessions:** The project effectively utilized listenership sessions, incorporating picture-based flashcards as a pivotal implementation modality. This approach surpassed the initial targets, with a substantial number of parents and caregivers participating. These brief sessions, strategically conducted at agreed-upon locations, accompanied by reminders in the form of flashcards, and utilizing entertaining radio spots as tools, have contributed significantly to the project’s success.



**Contextualization:** Rigorous efforts were made to adapt radio spots through comprehensive contextualization, including translations into local languages and mother tongues of the respective communities. This approach enhances the acceptance of radio spot messaging and ensures ease of understanding for parents and caregivers.



**Understanding Different Contexts:** The project demonstrated sensitivity to the diverse contexts of parents and caregivers, particularly those affected by conflicts and forced to relocate. Interventions extended support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), encompassing the provision of core relief items, COVID-19 prevention materials, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces in camps.



**Bottom-Up Advocacy:** While the project was launched at the federal level, advocacy efforts predominantly focused on local governments and other stakeholders, including local implementing partners and media stations. This grassroots engagement facilitated local buy-in and ownership, as evidenced by the commitment of local implementing partners who allocated funds and integrated project activities into their existing parenting interventions.



**“ I am a mother of two daughters residing in the Oromia region. Although my formal education extends only up to grade 10, I am always eager to learn and seize opportunities that can enhance the quality of life for myself and my family.**

*Upon learning about the registration for a project targeting low-income families with children aged 0-8 years in our district, I promptly enrolled myself. The initiative included weekly listenership sessions, utilizing radio spots and flashcards provided by the project, focused on guiding parents on raising and caring for their children.*

*Participating in the parenting listenership sessions proved to be a transformative experience for me. I gained insights into understanding my children’s feelings, needs, and essential aspects of pregnancy. The sessions equipped me with effective parenting strategies, emphasizing the importance of love and care. For instance, I learned to communicate calmly with my children, seeking solutions rather than resorting to yelling. Furthermore, these sessions significantly contributed to improving my marital relationship by fostering empathy and communication.*

*While my husband did not attend the sessions, I engaged in discussions with him about the insights gained. These conversations positively impacted our marriage, enhancing our ability to navigate challenges together. The practical application of the knowledge acquired during the parenting listenership sessions has enabled me to raise my children more effectively, leading to remarkable improvements in their academic performance.*

*The project facilitators also provided valuable health-related skills. Weekly meetings involved listening to radio spots in a language we understood, accompanied by visual aids on flashcards. The facilitators were readily available to address any queries, ensuring our comprehension and application of the information.*

*Consistent attendance and the implementation of acquired knowledge have resulted in positive changes for my family. I am immensely grateful for this project, as it has provided us with invaluable insights that have truly transformed our lives for the better.” - Alem*



# Access to quality pre-primary education

Quality pre-primary education is one of the best investments available for ensuring the future success of children. Pre-primary education sets the stage for a positive transformation in learning outcomes throughout a child's lifetime.

In FY23, ChildFund implemented various interventions in its communities of operation to increase access to quality pre-primary education. This included equipping and furnishing early childhood development centres with learning and play materials and equipment, mattresses and constructing play grounds.



# Education

Our education program focuses on improving the access to and quality of learning opportunities for all children aged 6 to 14 years in safe and secure environments. This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to provide universal access to quality education for all.



## Scholastic material provision for children

Every child has the fundamental right to education. Regrettably, due to economic constraints within families, a segment of school-age children in our designated community are currently deprived of this essential right. In our concerted effort to enhance school attendance and completion rates among children, we provided diverse learning materials.



## Sanitary pad provision for adolescent schoolgirls

Lack of sanitary pads is a leading cause of absenteeism among adolescent schoolgirls in Ethiopia. To address this problem, we provided sanitary pads to adolescent girls in designated schools. This has resulted in a notable increase in their attendance rates and improved learning achievements.



## Foundational literacy skills development

In line with ChildFund's commitment to investing in the Basic Education Program, we recognize the importance of supporting children's foundational literacy skill development. To achieve this goal, ChildFund trained education officers associated with our local partners on literacy skill development among children. By providing these training opportunities, we contribute to creating an environment where children can learn and develop to their fullest potential.



## Language laboratory for improved learning outcomes!

Great Dawn Primary School, situated in Addis Ababa, is a government-owned institution accommodating approximately 1,500 students. The school has received various forms of support from ChildFund and FHIDO. One notable intervention is the establishment of a language lab, crucial for enhancing students' language skills, particularly in English.

In Ethiopia, many schools, including Great Dawn, have struggled with inadequate language facilities, impacting students' language proficiency and academic performance. Recognizing this challenge, ChildFund provided the school with essential language lab equipment, including voice recorders, Bluetooth headsets, flash disks, speakers, external hard disks, and headphones. With these resources in place, students have been able to engage in more interactive and practical language learning experiences.

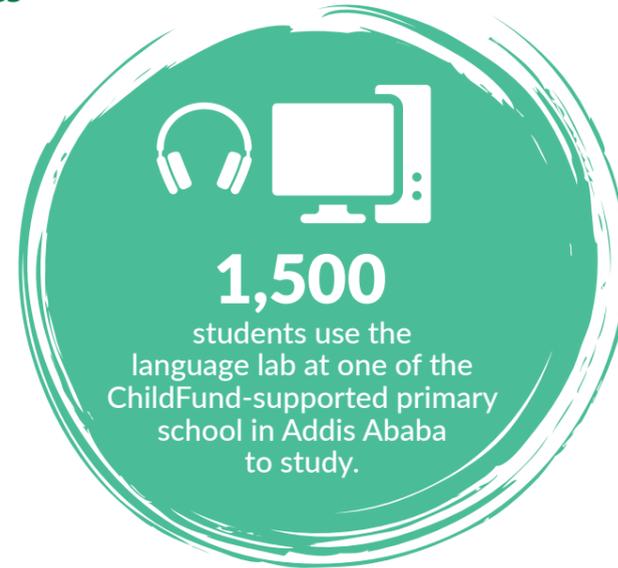
According to the school's language teacher, Mikias, the language lab has revolutionized their teaching approach, making language instruction more engaging and effective. "The language lab equipment is becoming an effective learning tool for us which makes it easy to teach language more interactively and practically. It supported our students to exercise the skills of listening and speaking."

**“Many students are showing significant improvement in English comprehension and overall academic performance. This is reflected in their continuous assessments. This lab is improving our academic performance,” said School Vice Principal Metasebia.**

Students, too, have expressed enthusiasm for the language lab, citing increased motivation and improved language skills. Grade 6 student Yohannes praised the lab for making English learning enjoyable and for enhancing his ability to express himself confidently.

**“Now I am excited to attend my language lab class. It has made me to love the English subject because I can practice the language in an interesting and fun manner. I can now express myself better and my listening skills have also improved.” -Yohannes**

The introduction of the language lab has not only modernized teaching methods but has also contributed to a more dynamic and efficient learning environment. School management extends gratitude to FHIDO for equipping them with the necessary resources to enrich students' language learning experiences and academic achievements.



# Youth Development

ChildFund Ethiopia's programs for youth focus on three aspects:



decent work i.e. youth employment and livelihoods;



youth sexual reproductive health i.e. adolescent health and healthy behavior promotion;



youth voices i.e. meaningful youth participation and youth agency.

## Youth Skills Development and Employment

To empower youth for sustainable development, entrepreneurship and employment, ChildFund conducted extensive training programs to equip youth with valuable vocational skills. These encompass a wide array of disciplines including metalwork, hairdressing, woodwork, photography, mobile maintenance, tailoring, and embroidery.

Recognizing the importance of enhancing youth employability, ChildFund implemented various programs to enhance their readiness for the job market. These include comprehensive career counselling, specialized job search techniques, CV writing workshops, and interview skill training sessions.



ChildFund also forged partnerships with private enterprises to facilitate internships and apprenticeships. Through strategic alliances with local organizations such as Tesfa Birhan, Sheger, and Love for Children, we aim to provide youth with invaluable hands-on experience within local companies. These initiatives not only broaden their skill sets but also serve as vital pathways to employment. By fostering collaboration with private enterprises, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, and employers, we aim to align youth skills with the dynamic demands of the private sector.

Central to our approach is the enhancement of vocational training curricula to ensure alignment with the evolving needs of the job market.

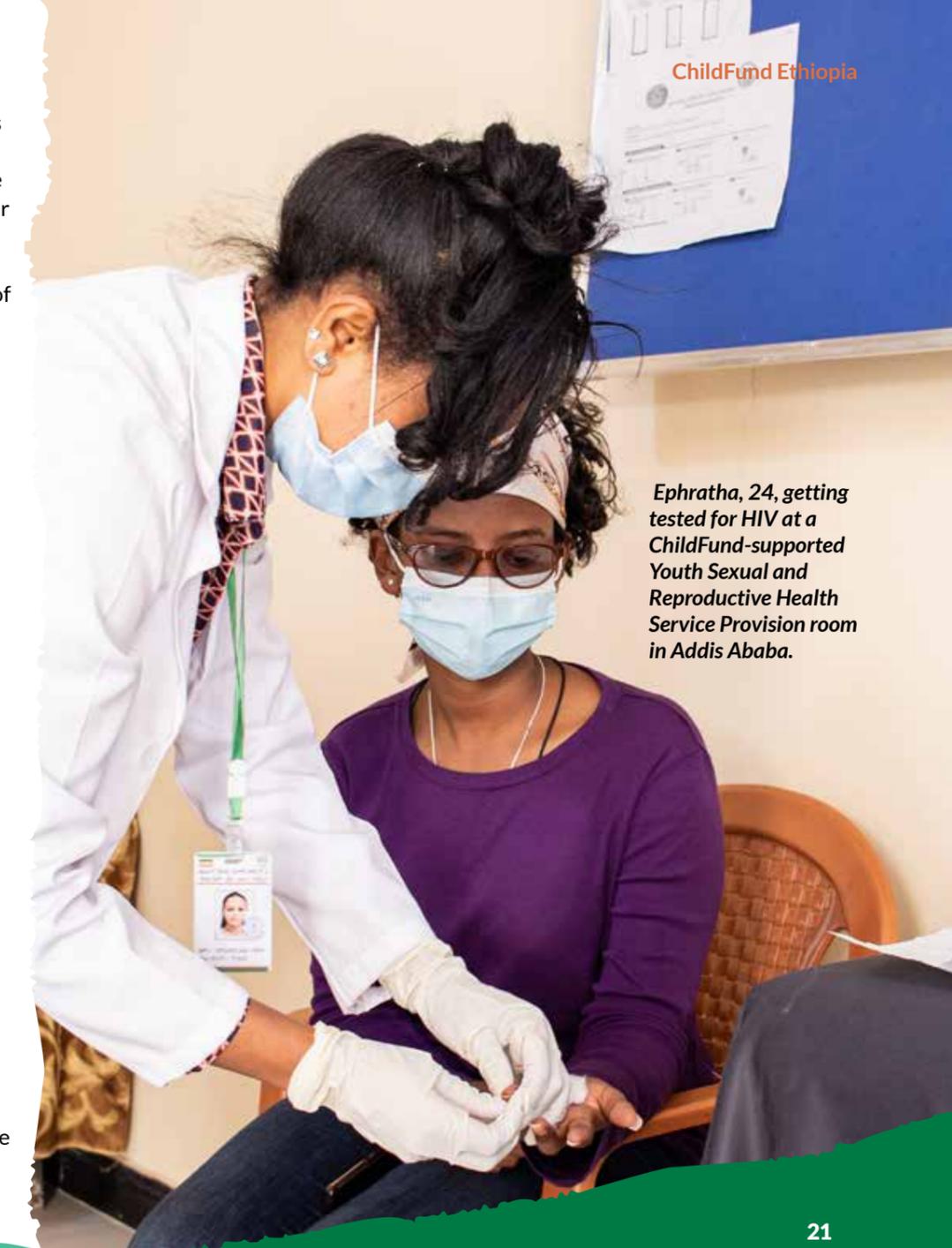
## Increasing access to youth-friendly Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services

Ensuring youth's access to comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services is key to promoting their holistic well-being. One pivotal strategy involves facilitating youth access to nearby health centers, where they can receive essential health services, HIV/AIDS prevention measures, and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services. Through collaboration with local partners, ChildFund equipped these health facilities with the necessary clinical materials and kits, ensuring that youth can access the care they need.

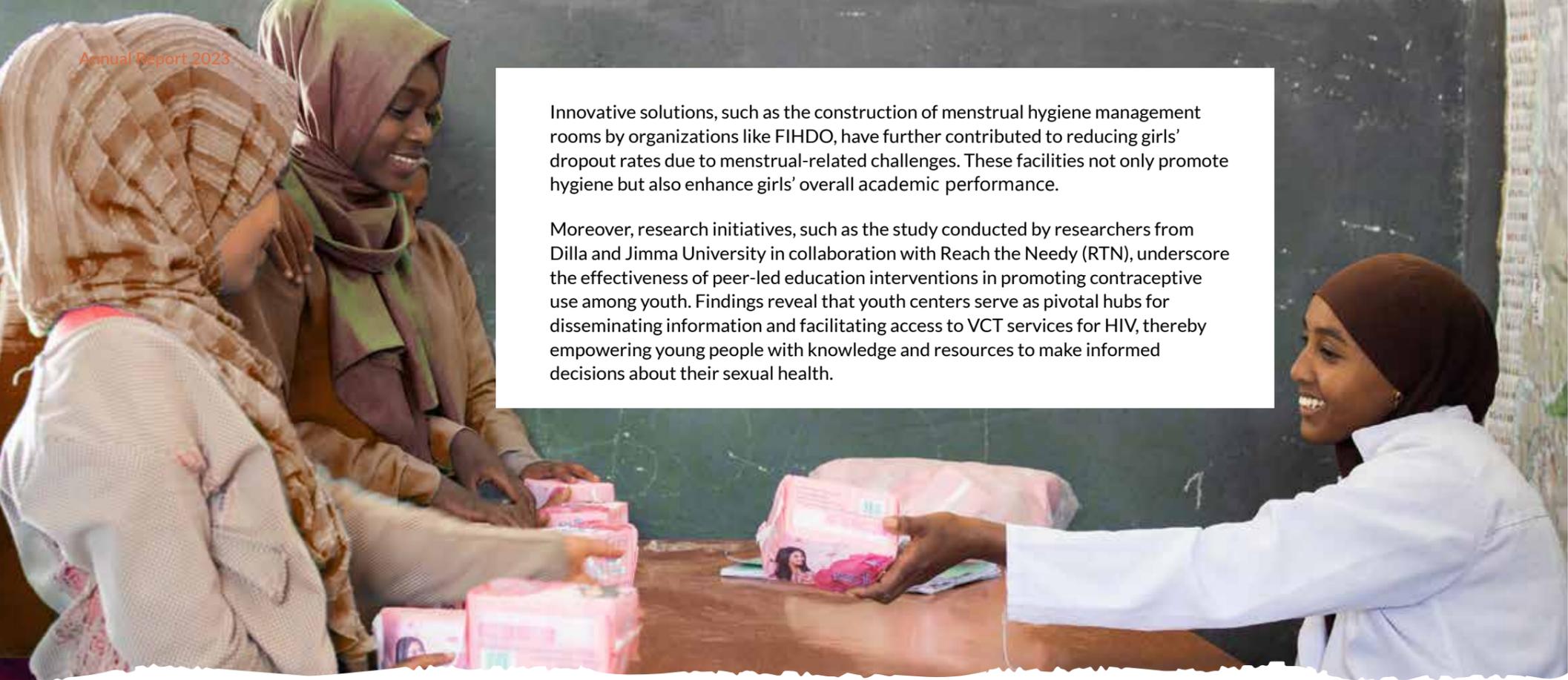
These youth centers serve as invaluable platforms for delivering these services, especially given the myriad SRH challenges faced by adolescents, including teenage pregnancy, abortion, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HIV.

Recognizing the critical role of menstrual hygiene management in empowering adolescent girls, Local Partners (LPs) have stepped the provision of sanitary pads every quarter. This simple yet impactful intervention has bolstered the confidence of adolescent girls, enabling them to attend school more regularly and actively participate in their education.

In forging partnerships with government health offices, ChildFund trained health professionals and health extension workers (HEWs) on delivering standardized adolescent and youth-friendly SRH services. This effort has strengthened referral systems between health centers and youth centers, ensuring seamless access to care for young people.



Ephratha, 24, getting tested for HIV at a ChildFund-supported Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Provision room in Addis Ababa.



Innovative solutions, such as the construction of menstrual hygiene management rooms by organizations like FIHDO, have further contributed to reducing girls' dropout rates due to menstrual-related challenges. These facilities not only promote hygiene but also enhance girls' overall academic performance.

Moreover, research initiatives, such as the study conducted by researchers from Dilla and Jimma University in collaboration with Reach the Needy (RTN), underscore the effectiveness of peer-led education interventions in promoting contraceptive use among youth. Findings reveal that youth centers serve as pivotal hubs for disseminating information and facilitating access to VCT services for HIV, thereby empowering young people with knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

### Youth Participation and Active Citizenship

Youth engagement in voluntary work, community service, and social activities is instrumental in fostering individual responsibility, nurturing national identity, and instilling a sense of social duty. In FY23, ChildFund and its LPs implemented various initiatives aimed at involving young people in significant projects. Through regular involvement in volunteer activities such as tree planting, blood donation drives, environmental clean-ups, elderly care, and home renovation, the youth gained a sense of fulfillment while cultivating a commitment

to societal welfare. These initiatives equipped youth with valuable soft skills that enhance their employability. These skills include communication, problem-solving, empathy, leadership, and creativity.

ChildFund-supported youth centers also provided invaluable platforms for skill development in areas such as ICT, financial literacy, sexual health, and leadership. These centers provide a supportive environment for personal growth and learning, offering opportunities for knowledge acquisition beyond traditional academic settings.

# Household Economic Strengthening

ChildFund is actively engaged in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by low-income communities. Operating in areas marked by recurrent droughts, ChildFund is dedicated to enhancing such communities' socio-economic development.

The regions in which ChildFund operates grapple with a range of issues, including low agricultural productivity, waterborne diseases, deficient hygienic practices, poor environmental sanitation, and heightened vulnerability to various illnesses. Additionally, communities in these areas confront social challenges such as child abduction, child labor, and early marriages.

In response to these issues, ChildFund, in collaboration with its local partner organizations, undertook a rigorous fundraising initiative aimed at uplifting household livelihoods. The support provided by these efforts has had a transformative impact on the participants. Notably, 260 households received small ruminants, leading to a tangible improvement in their income levels.

The support extended by ChildFund instilled a newfound sense of entrepreneurship, interest, and preparedness for engaging in business and building assets. This initiative represents a significant step towards sustainable economic strengthening, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and resilience of the households involved.



ChildFund distributed ruminants to **260** households, resulting in improved income levels and nutrition.

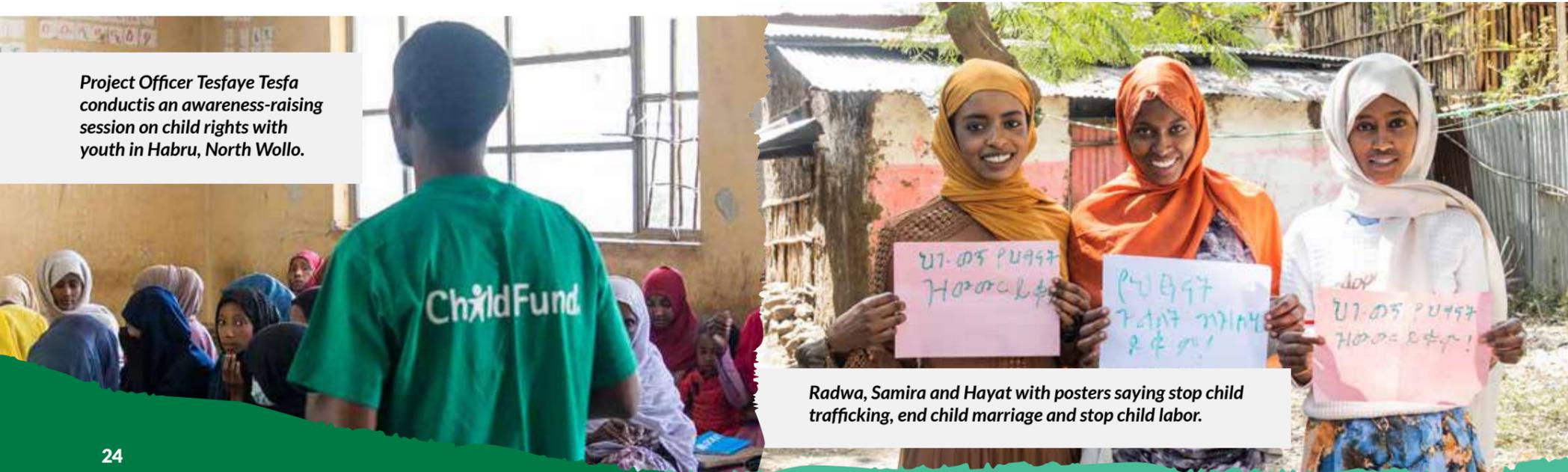
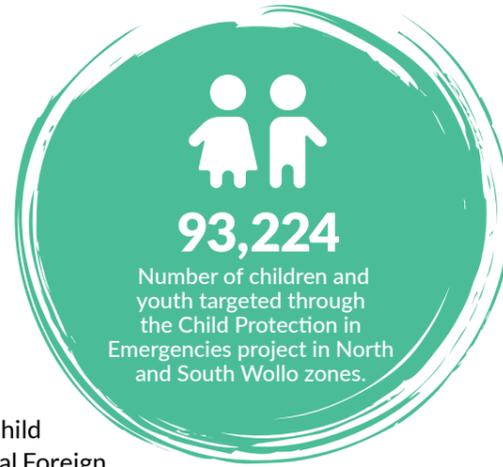


# Child Protection

## Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE): Children and youth leading the fight against child trafficking in Ethiopia

In the strife-torn regions of Ethiopia's North Wollo Zone, children are particularly susceptible to the scourge of trafficking. The Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) project, facilitated by the Joining Forces Alliance and generously funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, is at the forefront of efforts to prevent child trafficking and aid its victims, contributing to their rehabilitation and the restoration of their shattered lives.

One poignant tale from this initiative involves 18-year-old Said, who endured a harrowing journey from Ethiopia to Djibouti with the ultimate destination being Saudi Arabia. "Last year, in April," Said recounts, "I was desperate for a new life. I was tired of living in poverty." Said's family, like many others, succumbed to the allure of success stories emanating from the Middle East, where individuals had purportedly transcended their economic struggles. With hope in their hearts, Said's parents paid a substantial sum, Birr 20,000 (equivalent to \$370), to a broker who promised to facilitate Said's journey to Saudi Arabia. However, their aspirations were dashed when said and his fellow travelers were apprehended in Djibouti.



Project Officer Tesfaye Tesfa conducts an awareness-raising session on child rights with youth in Habru, North Wollo.

Radwa, Samira and Hayat with posters saying stop child trafficking, end child marriage and stop child labor.

## Child Participation in Action

In the past, children's parliaments have lacked consistency, hindering a unified platform for children to express their views. Recognizing the financial constraints faced by child members, the "Child Participation in Action" project aims to enhance their meaningful participation, ensuring children's rights are upheld with support from adults and mandated sectors.

The project focused on child parliaments at sub-city and city levels, collaborating with mandated government sector offices like the Secretariat of Addis Ababa City Council and the Women, Children, and Social Affairs office. Prioritizing technical support, training, experience-sharing workshops, and community-based child protection mechanism mapping, the initiative aims to enhance children's participation.

Through training sessions and joint workshops with duty bearers, the project facilitated inter-generational dialogues and maps community-based child protection mechanisms. Increased awareness among various sectors and community members promotes child parliaments, fostering meaningful child participation. The project improved coordination among government sector offices, strengthening children's parliaments through joint activities and networks with partners.

Joint platforms, including community outreach and media facilitation, allowed child parliament members and sector office representatives to discuss child protection risks. Workshops with community members enhanced communication between adults and children, addressing misconceptions about child parliaments and motivating active participation.

While child parliaments face challenges such as budget constraints, limited awareness, and misconceptions, workshops during the project address these issues, promoting the concept of child parliaments and motivating active participation. The project also promoted the existence and importance of child parliaments, creating opportunities for partnership with other sector offices.

Following a bottom-up approach, the project impacted 7,585 school children and engaged 355 government sector office representatives.

The journey was an arduous one. Said left his hometown in northeast Ethiopia by car, reaching Djibouti after a three-day trek on foot along the Ethiopia-Djibouti border. Once in Djibouti, they found themselves concealed in an old, dilapidated classroom for a week, enduring dire conditions—scarce food, lack of sanitation facilities, and sleeping on the unforgiving floor. Their hopes were shattered when they were discovered by the police, leading to beatings, torture, and eventual deportation back to Ethiopia.

Child trafficking inflicts profound and enduring consequences on its victims, with far-reaching psychological trauma being one of the most devastating outcomes. Said's experience encapsulates this reality as he struggled to cope upon his return.

**"I experienced a serious mental breakdown. I was disturbed. I could not sleep at night. I would have constant flashbacks about what I went through. Sometimes, I still have these horrible episodes. Trafficking is so dehumanizing," he lamented.**

The CPiE project is not merely addressing the immediate aftermath of trafficking incidents but is also actively engaged in preventative measures. By working directly with communities, the initiative seeks to create a protective environment for children and youth, shielding them from the clutches of traffickers. Through education, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization, ChildFund and its partners are fostering resilience and empowerment, equipping the younger generation to resist exploitation and rebuild their lives.

In Said's case, the support provided by the CPiE project became a lifeline. Beyond physical assistance, the project extends a compassionate hand to help survivors like Said navigate the treacherous path of psychological recovery.

By amplifying the voices of children and youth, this initiative aims not only to combat child trafficking but also to inspire hope and resilience in the face of adversity. The stories of survivors like Said underscore the critical importance of ongoing efforts to protect the vulnerable and empower them to reclaim their futures.

# Health and Nutrition

ChildFund, in partnership with various organizations, undertook initiatives to enhance child health and nutrition. Among these efforts, 117 children and their siblings received financial assistance for medical treatment, while 429 children benefited from medical referrals.

Health screening and MUAC measurements were conducted for 1,220 children across all ECD centers and sites in collaboration with health institutions. Of these, 689 children were identified as moderately malnourished, and 234 were categorized as severely malnourished. Nutritional support, including the provision of foods like FAFA, was extended to the affected children. Additionally, awareness sessions on child nutrition reached 2,821 mothers of under-5 children with below-standard weights.

Furthermore, 52 seriously ill children received milk support which aided their recovery. Collaborative efforts with health centers also included comprehensive examinations of children's eyes, ears, and throats, leading to the identification of 91 children requiring further medical attention and referrals.

The measurement and screening processes played a crucial role in identifying children's nutritional statuses and facilitating their recovery to lead healthier lives. These interventions also contributed to reducing infant mortality rates and childhood illnesses associated with malnutrition.



2,821

mothers with children under 5 with below-standard weights participated in sensitization sessions on child nutrition.



Over 12,000

people and school communities access clean water from various water facilities that were constructed and equipped by ChildFund in FY 23.

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

ChildFund rehabilitated water supply systems in various schools across its areas of operation to ensure children's access to safe and clean water. The interventions were technically supported by concerned government sectors in terms of the preparation of designs and quality control. The WASH project interventions (i.e., construction of water point distributions, pipeline extensions...) are currently serving over 12,000 people and school communities.

# Emergency Response

The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia deepened significantly in 2023, with over 20 million people across the country facing increased urgent needs, as reported by the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The pervasive conflict in regions such as Amhara, Oromia, and various parts of the country resulted in the displacement of more than 4 million people, hindering movement, and posing substantial challenges to program implementation.

Malnutrition rates soared nationwide, encompassing operational areas like Siraro. A concerning 1.2 million children were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), requiring urgent treatment. Additionally, nearly 1 million pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 3 million children are earmarked for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management.

The food security situation in the Tigray region reached a critical juncture due to the discontinuation of relief food assistance for several months. Malaria posing another challenge, with over 1.7 million reported cases, resulting in more than 200 fatalities.

Education was also severely impacted, with over 1 million children out of school due to the multifaceted challenges of conflict, drought, floods, and the cholera outbreak. An alarming aspect of this crisis was the glaring underfunding of the humanitarian response, with an OCHA report revealing that 8 months into the year, only 27 percent of the required funds have been secured, leaving the response efforts 73% underfunded.



# ChildFund's Response



## Drought Response

ChildFund invested a total of 10,603,550.00 Birr in drought Response in Siraro area. The program benefited over 13,615 people, including school children, with school feeding, food relief, scholastic materials support to vulnerable students and capacity strengthening of health facilities.



## Conflict Response

ChildFund implemented four Emergency response projects in Northern Ethiopia (three in Amhara and one in Tigray Region): The projects are PM-ERM, CPIE, PEER and Tigray Pilot program with a total investment of over 124 million Birr. These projects in total will benefit more than 120,000 people directly. The CO also allocated a total of 3 million Birr for conflict response at Fentale and Boset areas with financial support from Australian Embassy and ChildFund International.

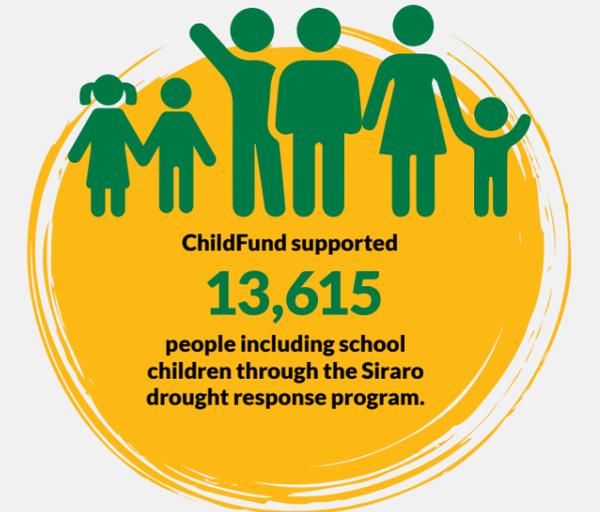


## Other responses:

ChildFund also responded to other hazards such as Cholera, Malnutrition and Fires in RTN, North Shoa, Siraro, Sodo Buee and AIDO Operational areas. ChildFund also participated in different multi-sectoral clusters and technical working groups in education, WASH, health and nutrition and child protection.

## Tigray Humanitarian Response Project

Together with Children Believe, we commenced the implementation of our Tigray Humanitarian Response Project. Through this pilot project, we implemented various interventions in education (school rehabilitation, furnished learning spaces, provided scholastic materials, psychosocial support training, water, sanitation, hygiene, child protection, and other forms of support and other forms of non-food items support.





School Feeding Program



Construction of WASH facilities in schools.



School girls receiving dignity kits

# Food Security

## Climate Smart Agriculture

ChildFund implemented a smart agriculture project to promote the adoption of climate-friendly and smart farming practices among communities in Boset woreda, East Shewa Zone, Oromia Region.. VSLA group members were trained in vegetable gardening and how to prepare nutritious meals using locally available foods. The women were also trained on good sheep and goat rearing practices/ small animal management and are now engaged in fattening and rearing shoats for sale, enabling them to generate meaningful and dependable income.

“ My family never ate lettuce before. We would only eat it during festivals organized by other families. We did not know that it was a highly nutritious food. But after we were trained on how to prepare it and we started cultivating it, with the other group members, now we eat it regularly. Recently, I had guests from Addis Ababa and they enjoyed it, and repeatedly requested me to prepare it for them since it was delicious.” Asha.

“ The training on small livestock management gave us knowledge of how to feed sheep and goats. Before, we did not know much about managing livestock diseases but after the training, we can now identify the type and name the disease when our animals get sick. We are now more sensitive to animal disease and take our animals to veterinary clinics when they are sick.” Roza.

In addition to raising sheep and goats, the women have also embraced poultry rearing to boost their income. They now consume a portion of the eggs they produce, a significant change from before when eggs were only enjoyed during festivities. Following nutrition training sessions, some women now consume at least one egg daily. The training on natural medicine has proven invaluable, with some households planting medicinal trees in their compounds. Sara, one of the women who was trained shared that her family has greatly benefited from using moringa. She recounted how her mother-in-law, who had been dealing with blood pressure for years, experienced relief after incorporating moringa into her daily routine. “After I learned about moringa’s potential for treating blood pressure, I planted it in our compound and my mother-in-law started using it. Today, her condition has really improved.”



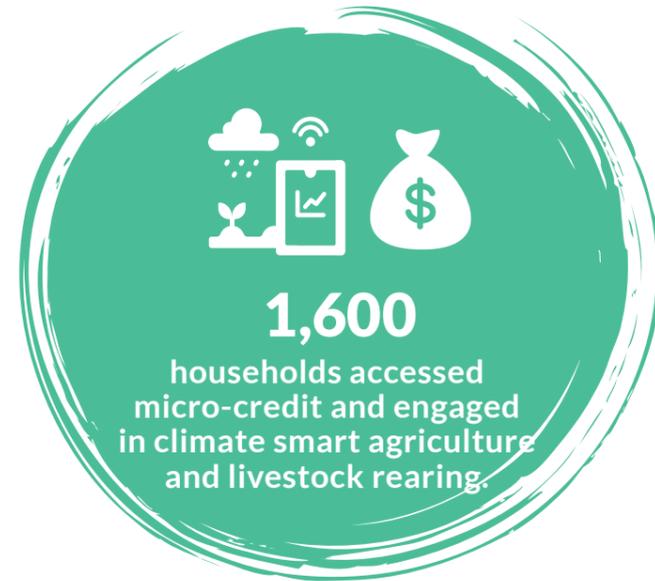
# Climate Change and Resilience Building

## Sustainable Food security

**W**ith funding from Barnfonden, ChildFund is implementing a two-year (January 2023 – December 2025) multi-country, citizen-led, child-focused climate action advocacy program that seeks to broaden the scope of climate action planning to include children and marginalized groups in Kenya and Ethiopia. The project, named Pamoja: Advocacy for Collective Action on Climate Change, is implemented by four local partner organizations – Pioneer Child Development Program and Emali Dedicated Children's Agency in Kenya, and Dugda Children's and Family Charitable Organization, and Aynage Children's and Family Development Organization in Ethiopia.

In July, project staff from both countries participated in a climate change training facilitated by Barnfonden's Programs Director Shona Jennings. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize participants on the four crucial phases of advocacy, assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. By providing a comprehensive understanding of these phases, the workshop equipped partners with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage effectively within the advocacy strategy.

At the end of the workshop, the participants' ability to conduct policy analysis effectively had been enhanced. They learned to navigate existing policies, identifying gaps that demand urgent attention and determining areas where policies require strengthening or reinforcement. This skill is crucial in shaping evidence-based advocacy initiatives that have a real impact on climate change policies and practices.



*In Kiswahili, pamoja means 'together'. Therefore, the project is named 'Pamoja', as it aims to bring together voices from different groups – particularly the most marginalized – to see informed citizens, including children and youth in Kenya and Ethiopia, influencing local, national, and global climate actions (SDG 13 and Paris Agreement) to recognize child rights.*

## Environmental Protection

**I**n FY23, 1,600 households accessed micro-credit through VSLA groups. These households also engaged in effective agricultural and livestock production methods in 16 villages of Fentale and Siraro Districts, Oromia. Their families' nutrition and economic conditions were improved, and they are actively involved in environmental protection and natural resource management (NRM). 200 students in 25 schools were engaged in NRM and Aflatoun.

The project organized 80 VSLAs with a total of 1,600 members. The members have improved their economic and social status due to financial access and social networks created because of VSLAs formation and all the group members have been actively participating in saving.

Currently, the total saving status reached around 4,221,649 ETB, and social fund at 431,640 ETB as of June 2023. Most of the households now run IGAs through relevant training and are entrepreneurs. The major IGAs have purchased agricultural inputs (crop seeds, fertilizers), poultry production, and chickens trading to make profits at the local markets and trade. This improved their household economies, enabled them to educate their children, and improved the quality of their social lives both within the family and among members.

In addition to VSLA methodology, the project has been working on extensive livestock production dairy goat production and promoting the use of climate-friendly technologies (energy-saving stoves promotion, solar energy, small-scale irrigation (SSI) and NRM).



Robe, 25, with her 2-year-old son Kediro, watering plants at a seedling nursery site in Fentale Woreda, East Showa Zone.



# Child Sponsorship

Our child sponsorship program enables sponsors from all over the world to support children, their families and entire communities – helping children to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe.

Our child sponsorship program focuses on improving the well-being of children in need, by adopting a holistic approach, working alongside communities to tackle the root causes of poverty and create sustainable change. A total of 30,942 children were enrolled in our child sponsorship program in FY23.



**30,942**  
children were enrolled in our child sponsorship program.

Number	Country	Number of sponsored children
1	USA	12,875
2	Korea	4,926
3	Australia	4,057
4	Sweden	4,299
5	Taiwan	1952
6	Germany	1,421
7	France	861
8	Ireland	344
9	Denmark	75
10	New Zealand	132
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,942</b>

# Financials

Source of Funding	Expenditure (USD)
Designated Funds for Children	563,300
Gifts-In-Kind	23,442
Grants	3,393,062
Grant Surplus	33,414
Indirect Costs Recovery	191,217
Non Sponsorship Funds	549,232
Partnership Effectiveness Funds	843,923
Subsidy	3,991,144
Working Fund	468,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,057,334.92</b>

Program versus Administration Costs	
Program Expenditure	9,222,576.12
Admin Expenditure	834,758.7984
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10,057,334.92</b>

# Grants

Grant Project Name	Donor	Project Value (in USD)
1 CIRCLED_Negalcha Project	Barnfonden	392,255
2 CPiA Project	ChildFund Korea	75,219
3 Orthopedic Workshop Support Project	CAF America/Dow Chemical	23,200
4 JF-CPiE Project	ChildFund Deutschland/GFFO	1,311,803
5 Siraro Drought Emergency Response Project	CAF America/ PepsiCo Foundation	35,400
6 I-Leader Follow on Project	ChildFund Korea	206,897
7 Play Matters Project	International Red Cross	861,356
8 Pamoja Project	Barnfonden	32,936
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,939,066</b>

## Subsidy Expenditure by Life Stage (ETB)

Local Partner	Life Stage 1	Life Stage 2	Life Stage 3	Crosscutting Programs	Total Expenditure
Sodo Buee	1,208,337.82	4,415,101.73	2,691,969.64	6,339,114.63	14,654,523.82
Aynage	3,705,686.33	4,989,109.01	5,235,191.26	7,835,535.73	21,765,522.33
RTN Eth.	3,428,182.33	2,344,549.21	5,517,930.24	6,955,624.59	18,246,286.37
CCFO	2,502,015.73	3,801,935.18	2,567,063.07	5,917,135.06	14,788,149.04
Dugda	1,729,994.40	6,465,051.06	3,008,640.70	9,354,758.74	20,558,444.90
FGO	2,047,518.01	5,405,155.44	2,754,834.59	4,519,951.60	14,727,459.64
Tesfa Berhan	2,536,147.67	3,385,202.86	2,971,619.04	7,636,799.84	16,529,769.41
Siraro	1,543,860.51	1,510,856.87	944,161.00	7,374,882.71	11,373,761.09
FHIDO	3,519,325.04	4,602,209.84	4,743,893.72	9,528,666.60	22,394,095.20
EOTC CFAO GE...	3,064,907.23	2,706,484.40	2,159,036.25	4,137,191.81	12,067,619.69
Love	1,768,273.66	3,281,273.02	2,705,839.84	6,745,907.16	14,501,293.68
AIDO	3,453,373.87	4,092,072.62	2,437,258.97	6,037,512.09	16,020,217.55
Chora	2,590,709.77	3,087,208.57	3,633,681.91	6,085,615.81	15,397,216.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,098,332.37</b>	<b>50,086,209.81</b>	<b>41,371,120.23</b>	<b>88,468,696.36</b>	<b>213,024,358.77</b>
<b>Avg. Exchange rate</b>					
\$53.0614	\$623,774.20	\$943,929.29	\$779,683.92	\$1,667,289.15	\$4,014,676.56

## Our Team

ChildFund Ethiopia's Senior Management Team and every staff member are dedicated to the organization's vision of achieving a world in which children realize their rights and achieve their full potential.

No	Team Member	Position
1	Abadi Amdu	Director, Program and Sponsorship
2	Admasu Wondafrash	Specialist Snr., Youth Engagement
3	Alemayehu Urgi	Snr. Driver
4	Ali Muzeyien	Officer, Grant Finance
5	Ali Siraje	Officer II, Project
6	Almaz W/Gabriel	Officer II, Finance and Administration
7	Amare Addise	Community Mobilizer II
8	Amare Feyissa	Specialist II, Education
9	Ashenafi Dagne	Assistant II- Procurement
10	Assefa Balcha	Snr. Specialist, ME & KML
11	Beselfua W/Hanna	Store Clerk
12	Betelhem Assefa	Officer II, Procurement
13	Biruk Dugassa	Manager II, Grant Management
14	Debitu Gamo	Officer I, Sponsorship
15	Dereje Haile	Driver/ Communications Asst

No	Team Member	Position
16	Elsabeth Ashagrie	Finance Officer II
17	Fikerte Teshome	Snr. Receptionist
18	Fitsum Ayalew	Specialist I, Sponsor Relation
19	Gashaw Alie	Community Mobilizer II
20	Gebeyaw Getu	Driver
21	Gebre Melkamu	Assistant, Administrative
22	Hailu Yazew	Officer Snr., Finance
23	Lidia Dechassa	Officer I, Sponsorship
24	Lidia Gizaw	Officer II, Child Protection
25	Lilly Omondi	Country Director
26	Matewous Bogale	Specialist Snr., Resource Mobilization and Fundraising
27	Mebrahtu Abadi	Snr. Coordinator, Project
28	Mesele Girma	Snr. Coordinator, Project
29	Meseret Hailu	Officer II, Partnership Portfolio
30	Mesfin Getahun	Senior Driver
31	Michael Tesfaye	Field Coordinator, ECD
32	Mikresilassie Bahiru	Senior Driver
33	Misganaye Amare	HR Officer
34	Muna Gezahegn	Specialist II, Nutrition
35	Nathan Tilahun	Manager Sr., Project
36	Roza Ashenafi	Manager II, Sponsorship
37	Sara Negussie	Manager Snr., Human Resources
38	Shibru Fekadu	Specialist II, Livelihood
39	Sintayehu Derseh	Officer I, Sponsorship

No	Team Member	Position
40	Sisay Worku	Manager II, Emergency Response Manager
41	Solomon Tsegaw	Manager Snr. Administration and Security
42	Tekalign Tolera	Officer, Grant Finance
43	Tesfa Mariye	Officer II, Project
44	Tesfaye Alefew	Coordinator Snr., Project
45	Tesfaye Tilahun	Specialist, Women Economic Empowerment
46	Teshome Negash	Accountant II, GSS
47	Theodros Fantahun	Manager Snr., Accounting, GSS
48	Tigist Tarekegn	Snr. Specialist, Child Protection and Advocacy
49	Wubshet Mathewos	Specialist II, Sponsor Relation
50	Yehuwalashet Shiferaw	Temporary Driver
51	Yilma Bekele	Analyst II (Lead), IT Support, GSS
52	Yishak Zekarias	Accountant I, GSS
53	Yohannes Kassahun	Senior Driver
54	Zelalem Bacha	Officer II, M&E

“ To mark ChildFund International’s 85 years of existence, we held a celebratory event bringing together all ChildFund staff, local partner representatives, alumni and sponsored children. On this day, we reflected on ChildFund’s growth over the years and renewed our commitment to the country’s strategic plan targeting to impact over 7 million children and their families in Ethiopia.



“ Celebrating our champions: We recently honored our longest-serving staff - Debitu Gammo, Sponsorship Officer (38 years), Dereje Haile, Driver and Communications Assistant (29 years) and Sintayehu Derse, Sponsorship Officer (28 years).



“ Our awesome team participated in the 23rd edition of the Great Ethiopian Run - a grand event that saw the participation of children, the public, corporations, local and international NGOs, and elite runners. We ran in support of the event’s theme to kick polio out of Ethiopia and ChildFund’s vision of supporting children to achieve their full potential.

# Our Development Partners



Children and youth participating in the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) project in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region. This CPIE project frequently brings children, youth and community members together to address rampant child rights violations in the community like early marriage, drug abuse, child labor, child trafficking and all other forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Overall, working with various stakeholders – including the government – this Joining Forces Alliance German Federal Foreign Office-funded project aims to improve the protection of vulnerable children and youth, affected by emergencies, through strengthened prevention, risk mitigation efforts and access to specialized child protection response services.





# ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

**ChildFund Ethiopia**

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