

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

3RD QUARTER 2016

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DEAR MEMBERS

In the 3rd Quarter of 2016 we have an update on our largest project, the Integrated Environmental Rehabilitation and Economic Empowerment project in Northern Shewa for which we secured funding via a grant from The Christensen Fund (TCF). In addition we have updates on several new educational initiatives in both Addis Abeba and Northern Shewa. These initiatives were funded 100% via membership fees and individual donations, thus underscoring the ground-level impact we can all have as individual contributors. We hope you find this update informative and as always we welcome your feedback.



Trees Planted in Weyniye Kebele in the "Gott" of Debir



Some of the younger kids at Grace for All

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

In June of 2015, a 2 year Integrated Environmental Rehabilitation & Economic Empowerment project was kicked off in the rural kebele (sub-district) of Weyniye in Northern Shewa. Working with our partner ADHENO, the target for the 2016 planting season (July) was to plant 85,000 indigenous trees. In actuality 75,420 trees were planted, i.e. 9,580 short of our goal. Planted indigenous trees include: Wanza, Kosso, Koshim (bush useful to prevent soil erosion). We hope to make up for the short-fall in the 2017 planting season. Other achievements include: construction of terracing on about 126 acres of land, construction of a clean water spring that serves 53 households (about 265 people), and distribution of seeds of local varieties of teff, lentils and chickpeas to encourage propagation of indigenous varieties. In addition, farmers were also provided with seedlings of local varieties of fruits and vegetables including cabbage, carrots, tomato, onion, lemon and coffee. Revenue generating activities were supported including one group engaged in pottery and another in basket-weaving household items from bamboo. In addition to these activities funded by our TCF grant, at the strong request of the community, using membership fees, Dir Biyabir also funded a 3.5km foot-path out of the valley of Weyniye so that villagers can more easily access the local market to sell their goods. This foot-path is now complete.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

In the 3rd Quarter of 2016, with funding from membership fees and individual donations, Dir Biyabir funded educational initiatives for a Center for street children in the capital Addis Abeba, as well as rural schools in Northern Shewa. Grace for All is a Center that supports 200 street kids in Addis Abeba. We had funded a library for this center in 2014 and in Q3 2016, Dir Biyabir provided funds to build additional tables and benches so all the children can sit down to read. In addition we funded the purchase of 2 hand-washing basins and a kitchen sink to ensure hygiene. Continuing our rural school books program, Dir Biyabir provided funds for the purchase of much-needed books at 3 schools in Northern Shewa: Goshebado and Debre Eba High Schools, as well as Weyniye Elementary School. A new initiative supporting severely under-funded rural pre-schools was also launched in Q3 with 3 rural pre-schools receiving funding for basic material for learning and for play. These pre-schools are located in Northern Shewa and include: Workegur, Weyniye, and Moy. Our school-sponsorship program continues and in Q3 of 2016, funding was provided to sponsor 139 elementary school and 28 high-school girls in Northern Shewa. Though funding was provided in Q3 for all these projects they will not be fully implemented until the 4th Quarter of 2016.