

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

4TH QUARTER 2017

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

DECEMBER 15, 2017

DEAR MEMBERS

As we head towards the end of 2017, we want to thank you for your support this year. We also want to remind you as you do your shopping for the holidays to please remember that when you shop on Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Dir Biyabir so please go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-1176840> then do all your shopping on Amazon as normal and know that you will have supported a good cause! This quarter we have some updates for you on our initiatives in Ethiopia, we hope you find it informative



Purchase of HDP



Signups and informational table at the fundraiser

WEYNIYE EXTENSION

After visiting the TCF funded projects in Woyneye Kbele and listening to the community Dir Biyabir funded the construction of two reservoirs and the installation of HDP (High Density Poly-thene) pipes for irrigation in Weyniye Kebele (5 Gotts are supported). The idea behind the expansion being that every villager would then be able to produce more fruits and vegetables by effectively using the reservoirs and pipes for watering without wastage. The 2 reservoirs are almost complete and the HDP's have been purchased.

With the objective of sustaining the handling of the HDP in a more organized and coordinated manner, a committee consisting of 5 individuals has been established in each sub kebele. The committee is responsible for controlling and managing the materials including preparing timetables to ensure that everyone is watering their plants accordingly and the HDPs are maintained well.

The early start of the rains had caused slight delays in the completion of the construction of the two reservoirs as well as the installation of the HDP's. This has also led to more burden on the availability of required labor.

AWRA AMBA SOLAR PROJECT

On Sunday June 25th 2017, an outpouring of support at the sold-out dinner hosted by Martha's Vineyard's Friends of Awra Amba in conjunction with Dir Biyabir helped raise over \$65,000 towards the installation of a solar powered water delivery system. A big thank you goes out to all that supported the fundraising effort.

Awra Amba cultivates a thriving healthy lifestyle. Residents there used local materials to build their houses, a residence for village elders, a library, a kindergarten for their pre-schoolers and weaving workshops. They support themselves by weaving and by small-scale farming. Using hand tools, they dug a bore hole to supplement their water supply from a seasonal spring. Their agriculture is dependent on the annual summer rainfall that has been erratic at best due to climate change. During the dry season, the drought depletes their water supply and threatens their livelihood.

A solar-powered, deep-well water delivery system will help Awra Amba diversify its economy and expand its gardens and fruit orchards. It will help support their oil-seed productions, enabling them to share healthy, organic produce with surrounding villages and serve as a model for a fairer, more sustainable way of living. Watch this space and webpage for further updates.