

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

2ND QUARTER 2016

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

MAY 12, 2016

DEAR MEMBERS

In the first two quarters of 2016 we undertook two main initiatives. One was a fundraiser for the current drought in Ethiopia. We exceeded our target by raising \$21,805 from our members and supporters. Dir Biyabir added another \$10,000 from our own coffers for a total of \$31,805 raised for the drought. 100% of this was wired to Ethiopia and you can read all about how this funding was used. Another initiative was the expansion of our book project in the Gurage Zone. Dir Biyabir funded the purchase of books for 2 additional schools bringing the total number of schools supported in this area to 6



Dir Biyabir President with Members of Kuré Beret Community



Borana Tuba Elementary School

DROUGHT FUNDRAISER

Dir Biyabir had raised \$31,805 to combat the effects of drought in the Northern Shewa region. Based on feedback from our local partner ADHENO, we targeted the wereda (district) of Kewet which was significantly impacted. Within Kewet we focused on 2 kebeles (sub-districts) : Kuré Beret and Sefi Beret. The communities in these areas had identified their biggest need as cattle feed and seed for planting. Food aid meets the short-term needs of the people, but it is critical to also provide cattle feed and seeds to allow farmers to quickly get back on their own feet and end dependence on food aid. Oxen are needed to plough the fields, and due to the shortage of cattle feed, these critical animals are dying at an alarming rate. In addition, the farmers have not been able to save any seed for the next planting season so seeds for cereal grains such as teff and Mong Beans are critically needed. With funding from Dir Biyabir, ADHENO purchased 2,400 bundles of of "Chid" ቅታ (i.e the stalk of Teff which is to be mixed with factory produced cattle feed), as well as 40,000kgs of factory produced feed for Kuré Beret and Sefi Beret. The Dir Biyabir Chairperson visited these 2 kebeles and was able to observe the distribution of feed and talk to community members. Distribution for the "belg" rainy season is now complete and an additional distribution of feed and seed is planned for the "Meher" rainy season (June-August)

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Dir Biyabir had funded the purchase of books for 4 schools in the Gurage zone. The Dir Biyabir chair visited these schools in November 2015 to assess the impact of these books and was very impressed by what she saw and heard. Students from grade 8 at Yedege School mentioned that these reference books helped them by providing additional clarification to concepts presented in the text books. At Bojebbar School, teachers said that prior to reference books being purchased with Dir Biyabir funding, 20 to 30 students failed the National 8th grade Ministry Exams every year. After the books this unfortunate statistic has gone down to 2-3 failing students per year. This is about a 90% decrease in the number of failing students, a dramatic achievement with a small initiative! Based on these results, Dir Biyabir decided to fund books for two additional schools in the area: Borana Tuba Elementary School and Bakanwinte School. Both schools had submitted a detailed proposal listing the specific books they needed (to be purchased locally in Ethiopia). Based on their proposal, Dir Biyabir funded the purchase of 185 books for Borana Tuba and 370 books for Bakanwinte. These books have already been purchased and received by the two school libraries. We wish all the best for these bright young kids who are eager to learn!