

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

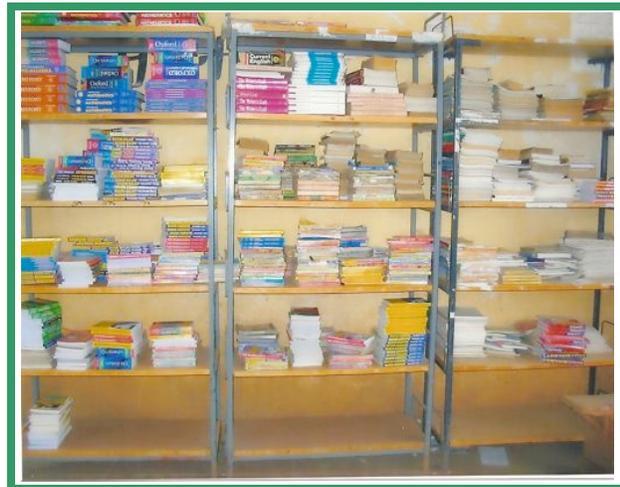
3RD QUARTER 2014

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

DEAR MEMBERS

The Dir Biyabir team is gratified to announce the successful completion of two projects in Ethiopia in the third quarter of 2014. The bridge construction that was funded by membership fees and donations is now complete and already being used by the communities of Weyniye, Kasset, Moy, and Amoragedel in Northern Shewa. In addition, a book project that was funded for Yedege Elementary School in Edja Wereda in the Gurage zone has been completed and the school children now have better access to books. We thank our members for making both these projects possible!



BRIDGE ON BERESSA RIVER

In April this year, when the chairperson of Dir Biyabir visited the various project sites in Northern Shewa, the villagers of Amoragedel, Moy, and Kasset repeatedly expressed to her their very pressing need for a bridge across the Beressa river. Every rainy season, this river gets very full and several people drown every year trying to cross it. According to the villagers, in just one year 4 members of one family drowned trying to cross the river. Since many of the villagers have farms across the river in Weyniye, they have to cross the river to weed, plant and harvest their farms.

Since this was clearly a top priority for the villagers, Adheno our partner organization in Ethiopia expedited the preparation of a proposal and within a couple of weeks of the return of the Dir Biyabir chairperson to the US, funding was wired for the project. Funding covered the purchase of industrial material like concrete and steel, as well as hiring skilled labor to design and construct the bridge. The bridge was completed in August with Adheno managing the project. The villagers are already using the bridge, and we are gratified that Dir Biyabir and all its members were able to make their lives a little better.

BOOKS FOR YEDEGE ELEMENTARY

Yedege Elementary School is the first school in Edja Wereda in what is now called Gurage zone. It was established in 1973 and had grades 1 to 6. It was established to provide children of farmers with access to primary education. In 1997 the school was expanded to include grades 7 and 8 and it currently serves a population of 5,000 to 7,000. There are 1,731 students enrolled in the school 46% being girls. The school suffered from lack of sufficient books so Dir Biyabir funded the local purchase of books according to a list provided by the school

This project was implemented through a new partnership with Journey to Light (www.journeytolight.org), a California based non-profit founded by an Ethiopian. Journey to Light has a long history in the community building schools, providing access to clean water, and providing health services.

We are happy about the successful completion of this project, and gratified that the eager young students of Yedege Elementary have better access to books. We look forward to collaborating with Journey to Light in similar projects in the future.