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Dir Biyabir 2022 Annual Report

May 18, 2023

OVERVIEW

Message From The Chairperson

After spending 2021 focused on emergency relief for civilians impacted by the horrific invasion of TPLF terrorists into the Amhara and Afar regions, we started 2022 hopeful that we could finally focus on rebuilding from the damage. The good news is that in 2022 Dir Biyabir held a fundraiser to rehabilitate schools looted by TPLF in N.Shewa and this project has now kicked off, with our key local partner in Ethiopia, ADHENO, leading the implementation. The bad news is that today, the N.Shewa region (along with other parts of the Amhara region) is back to being a battleground.

Given the devastation this region has already suffered, and the continued massive influx of displaced Amhara civilians fleeing barbaric ethnic-based violence at the hands of OLF-Shene terrorists in Wellega and other areas, the N.Shewa region is in dire straits. In 2022 we held a fundraiser to fund emergency relief efforts for displaced Amhara civilians. Given the situation, we may need to hold yet another emergency relief fundraiser in 2023.

Dir Biyabir was formed to invest in the least privileged people in Ethiopia, so they could use their God-given potential to lift themselves out of poverty. To this end, via ADHENO we have funded grass-roots initiatives in agriculture, education, micro-enterprise, environmental rehabilitation, and rural infrastructure. However, in the last few years, we have been forced to divert from our core mission and instead, we find ourselves constantly fundraising for emergency relief. This diversion reflects the tragic state of affairs in Ethiopia. Nonetheless we are grateful that strong local partners like ADHENO have enabled us to support innocent victims at the their time of greatest need. As always, ADHENO's detailed planning and execution have made it possible to make the biggest impact with our limited budget. We especially appreciate the great effort they made to meet with the displaced civilians at various camps in Debre Birhan to understand their specific needs, and tailor our relief efforts accordingly. Delivering teff flour, shiro, onions, oil, and berbere requires a lot more effort than the standard wheat flour, but this traditional food is what was requested, and is far more nutritious. It was much appreciated by the recipients, and you can hear from them directly as we have uploaded videos of relief efforts to our new YouTube channel. Please subscribe to our channel as we will be posting more videos.

We closed 2022 with a more personal tragedy. The founder of ADHENO, Dr. Fisseha Haile-Meskel passed on October 31. He was both the visionary and driving force behind ADHENO, serving from 2003 to 2016 without a salary. Leading by example, he built ADHENO's culture of transparency, respect for the community served, solution-focus, and relentless execution. We are devastated by this loss but continue to be inspired by Dr. Fisseha.

The endless tragedies in Ethiopia are enough to sink us all into the depths of despair. But we must choose instead to keep our faith and fix our eyes on better days ahead. As the saying goes, "it is darkest before dawn". So let's focus on the positive impact we can make through our collective strength. We thank our members and donors for your support. And we thank our dedicated local partners like ADHENO.

Leadership Team

In 2022 our executive team and Board remained unchanged:

- Chairperson - Haeran Fisseha
- Secretary - Eminet Ayele
- Treasurer - Yared Mengistu.

The Board consists of: Dr. Tadesse Wolde, Sam Smith, and Dr. Asrat Tesfayesus. We are grateful to have continuity in our team as it ensures smoothness in our operations.

As always, all Dir Biyabir positions are voluntary and uncompensated. The Executive team continues to cover all of Dir Biyabir operational expenses, to ensure that **100% of membership fees and donations received are directly utilized to fund projects in Ethiopia.**

MEMBERSHIP

The membership levels are unchanged and are summarized below.

- Diamond: $1,000 per year
- Platinum: $500 per year
- Gold: $250 per year

Membership fees are our only reliable and consistent source of revenue to fund projects in Ethiopia so we very much appreciate all of our members. As always 100% of membership fees and donations are allocated to fund one of our grassroots projects in Ethiopia.

Over the last 3 years we have seen steady growth in our total revenue despite lack of significant increase in our membership base. This is due to new donors who joined our fundraisers. We are grateful to have new donors and in 2023 we hope that they decide to join us as members

Membership is annual and can be renewed simply by paying membership fees any time within the calendar year. Members are strongly encouraged to renew their membership as early in the year as possible. Membership is simply a mechanism to raise funds for our projects in Ethiopia via membership fees. There are no additional responsibilities or benefits for being a member.

Membership fees and all other donations (via check or PayPal) are 100% tax deductible and eligible for corporate match programs so please do check with your employer if they have such a program and request a match.

We highly encourage our members to use our **PayPal Subscribe feature** on our website: http://dirbiyabir.org/page/become-a-member . This way your membership will auto-renew every year and you won't need to remember to renew your membership. This also frees up our scarce volunteer resources to focus on project execution rather than reminding members to renew, so we highly appreciate all auto-renewals!

New or Renewing Membership can also be paid by:

1) Sending a check (please include your email address for receipts) payable to Dir Biyabir to:

Dir Biyabir, PO Box 914, Mountain View, CA 94042

2) As a one-time payment via PayPal on our website: http://dirbiyabir.org/page/become-a-member

PROJECT STATUS

Emergency Relief - Amhara Refugees from Wellega

In February 2022 Dir Biyabir held a fundraiser that raised $24,693. With an additional contribution of $5,000 from Dir Biyabir's coffers that brought the total to $29,693 to fund three phase of relief distributions for Amhara refugees fleeing violence in Wellega.

Though Dir Biyabir is not focused on emergency relief we were faced with yet another human tragedy that we could not ignore. Amhara civilians have been subjected to inexplicable brutal violence and genocide in Ethiopia. In February 2022 we found ourselves facing yet another tragedy with Amhara civilians from Wellega and Western Shewa fleeing endless terror attacks by the terror group OLF-Shene simply because of their Amhara identity. At that time, over 30,000 of the internally displaced people (IDP) had fled to the N.Shewa region, of these about 9,000 were settled in the town of Debre Birhan. Tragically the violence has continued and the numbers of displaced civilians fleeing to N.Shewa has continued to swell. The numbers quoted here are just from the time of our emergency relief efforts in February 2022, the situation is even worse now.

IDP in Debre Birhan

On February 7 2022, our local partner ADHENO met with the Planning Commission of the Office of the Mayor of Debre Birhan to gather data on the IDPs. They were informed that a significant number of IDPs are staying in two non-operational factories in Kebele 07 & 08. The remaining IDPs were sheltered in public halls located in Kebele 03 & 04. The ADHENO team visited the displaced folks at these locations to assess their condition and to ask them firsthand about their key unmet needs.

The immediate unmet need as expressed by the IDP themselves was food. They repeatedly and urgently requested teff flour to make their staple injera. Some shiro (beans) would also give them protein to go with the injera. They also did not have enough blankets and mattresses. At well over 9,000 feet above sea level, Debre Birhan is the highest town of it's size in Africa and is well known for it's cold weather.

Phase I: On March 18 2022 our project partner ADHENO implemented Phase 1 of emergency food distribution for Amhara IDP in Debre Birhan. The total cost of Phase I relief was $12,000. Items purchased and distributed are summarized below

1 Quintal = 100kg = 220 pounds

Shelter at Kebeles	Number of IDPs	Provided food items			
		Teff powder/quintal	Roasted bean Shiro/ quintal	Pepper/raw/ kg	Cooking oil/litter
03	159	25	1	25	125
04	73	13	1	25	125
06	94	15	1	25	125
08	318	47	1	25	125
Total	**644**	**100**	**4**	**100**	**500**

Table 1: Summary of Food Items Distributed in Phase 1 Relief

Phase 1 relief teff, shiro, and cooking oil being distributed

Emergency Relief (continued)

Phase II: On April 21, 2022 our project partner ADHENO was able to deliver Phase 2 of emergency food and material distribution just in time for Ethiopian Easter. The items purchased and distributed in Phase 2 are summarized below:

	Kebele 08	Kebele 06	Kebele 04	Kebele 03	Total
Number of IDPs	246	94	73	159	572
Raw Beans (Quintals)	9	0*	3	5	17
Sugar(Kgs)	344	128	104	224	800
cooking Oil (Litres	248	94	73	159	574
Salt (Kgs)	250	100	100	150	600
Onion (Kgs)	344	128	104	224	800
Hair oil for children andwomen(Bottles)	136	52	40	87	315
Dry Soap 200 gm (Number)	496	0*	0*	318	814
Sanitary Pad (Number)	272	104	80	174	630
Maintenance & construction of Temporary Kitchen (Number of Shelter)	0*	1	1	0*	2
Firewood (Number)	123	55	35	85	298
Black Board (Number)	1	1	1	1	4
Chalk(Boxes)	3	2	2	3	10
Exercise Books (Number)	104	38	31	67	240
Pencil (Number)	189	70	57	124	440
Pen(Number)	104	38	31	67	240
Books and Educational Charts (Number)	28	19	19	27	93
Handball small (Number)	2	2	2	2	8
Volleyball (Number)	1	1	1	1	4
Football (Number)	1	0	0	1	2
Pump (Number)	1	0	0	1	2

Given the large number of children in the camps and their request for some balls, these were purchased along with stationary. Local volunteers from Debre Birhan have been teaching some of these kids who didn't even know how to write in their native Amharic as it is not taught in Wellega. Temporary kitchens were constructed/maintained at the request of the IDP.

Phase III: On July 12, 2022 ADHENO purchased and distributed the items summarized in the below table as the last phase of emergency relief.

s/n	Items	Unit	Amount	Singles cost /birr	Total cost/birr	Distribution per shelter			
						Kebele 03	Kebele 04	Kebele 06	Kebele 08
1.	**Food items**								
1.1	Teff	Quintal	50	4,700	235,000	13	10	10	17
1.2	Cooking oil	Littre	400	250	100,000	110	75	75	140

Videos of the innocent civilians who have been displaced by this ongoing horrific violence by OLF-Shene as well as the relief distribution are available on our new YouTube channel

The 3 phases of relief effort were much needed and we are grateful to all our donors for making life just a little bit better for these innocent victims. We are especially grateful to the ADHENO staff for their significant effort to provide these folks with the type of nutritious food that they want and need as opposed to the standard wheat flour. Special thanks to the mill workers who worked long hours through the night grinding teff for this emergency relief.

Long hours grinding teff

However this is all but a drop in the bucket compared to the need. We were only able to reach a small fraction of the displaced, and even for those, we met their needs for only 6 months. On-going violence is displacing more and more Amhara civilians. A long-term plan is needed to avert an even larger humanitarian crisis. For our part, if we have sufficient financial support from members and donors, Dir Biyabir will run another fundraiser in 2023 for emergency relief in Debre Birhan.

Northern Shewa Rebuilding

In November of 2021 TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front) terrorists marching south from Tigray into the Amhara and Afar regions had inflicted incalculable death, destruction, and trauma on the civilian population. A study from the Amhara region estimated that due to the TPLF attacks, in the Amhara region alone 240,236 people were killed or injured and $5.6 billion worth of damage was incurred within just a 6 month period from June to December 2021. This is not including the death and destruction from the 3rd round of attacks launched by TPLF on August 31, 2022.

Given our long history in Northern Shewa, Dir Biyabir launched a fundraiser on October 2 2022 to raise money to rehabilitate schools and clinics looted by TPLF. Our local project partner ADHENO worked with the education office of the town of Shewa Robit to identify the most devastated schools and clinics. They received a list of 14 primary (elementary) schools and 1 high school that had been looted and damaged but TPLF. ADHENO staff also visited the schools, met with the teachers and administrators and assessed the damage. Dir Biyabir chose the most impacted 4 elementary schools, as well as 1 secondary school (high school), and 1 clinic to focus our rehabilitation efforts on. The following 5 schools and 1 health station were selected based on the extent of damage and number of students served:

Looting at Robi Zuti Primary

1. Wurba Primary School
2. Robi Zuti Primary school
3. Hedase Primary School
4. Chare Primary School
5. Shewarobit General Secondary school
6. Shewarobit Health Station

The most critical damage was that the schools and clinic had been heavily looted and/or damaged by TPLF including books, desks, chairs, shelves, microscopes, computers, printers, projectors, generators, and health equipment (chemistry machine and CD4 machine).

Classrooms destroyed at Wurba Primary

On October 2, 2022 Dir Biyabir launched a fundraiser to at least partially replace these lost items. In 2022 we raised $52,278.80. On December 23, 2022 we wired $50,000 to ADHENO and they have started purchasing and replenishing the looted items. The fundraiser is still open so we hope we are able to raise additional funding in 2023 as our target was to raise $70,000. **You can easily donate via our GoFundMe page.**

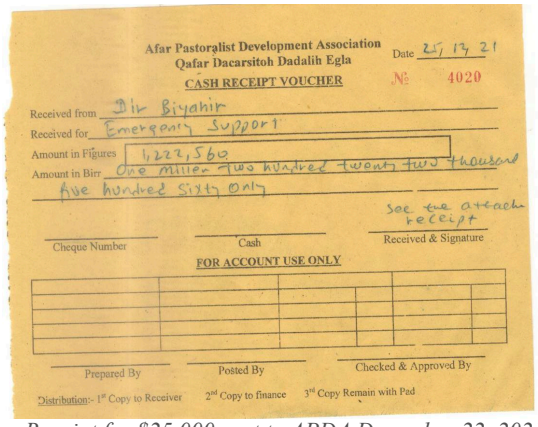
The devastation due to the TPLF invasion is so extensive in N.Shewa and the rest of the Amhara region as well as the Afar region that it is easy to lose hope. However if we keep our focus on the innocent victims and remember that every little bit that we do will make a difference to someone, we can keep our motivation to help.

Broken windows at Shewarobit Secondary

So please join our fundraiser and let's do our best to rehabilitate the damaged schools and clinics in Northern Shewa. Let's make sure that when the new school year starts in September 2023, some kids will be going back to better desks, chairs, and books.

Afar Emergency Relief

In 2021 Dir Biyabir had completed a fundraiser for emergency relief for the the Afar people displaced and injured by the aggression of the TPLF terrorist group and incursion into the Afar region. Dir Biyabir had sent $25,000 on December 22 2021 (which included $5,000 from our own coffers) from this


Afar Pastoralist Development Association
Qafar Dacarsitoh Dadalih Egla
CASH RECEIPT VOUCHER
Date 25/12/21
№ 4020
Received from Dir Biyahir
Received for Emergency Support
Amount in Figures 1,222,560
Amount in Birr One Miller Two hundred twenty two thousand five hundred sixty only
See the attach receipt
Cheque Number
Cash
Received & Signature
FOR ACCOUNT USE ONLY
Prepared By
Posted By
Checked & Approved By
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Receipt for $25,000 sent to APDA December 22, 2021

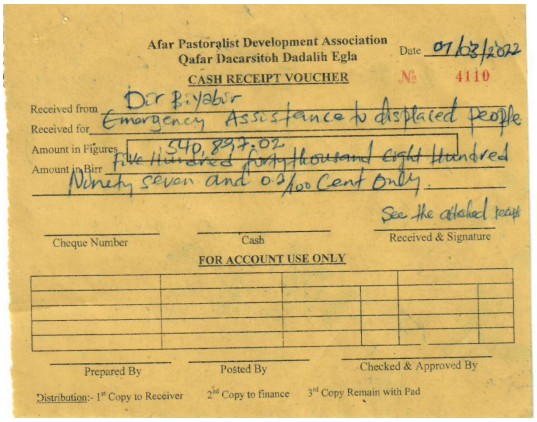
fundraiser. There were additional donations that came through in early 2022 so an additional $10,644.08 was wired to a local non-profit known as Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) on March 4, 2022. In total Dir Biyabir raised and sent $35,644.08 to APDA.

APDA was co-founded by a remarkable woman who is doing great work to help the displaced and suffering people in the Afar region. Valerie (aka Maalika) is a nurse from Australia who has been living among the Afar people for over 30 years. She is married to an Afar leader Ismael Ali Gordo, and together with him and other members of the community they founded APDA in 1994.

The Afar people have been playing an invaluable role in fighting the expansion and aggression of the TPLF terrorist group in Ethiopia. Civilians including women and children have paid a heavy price with hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of displaced. Schools, hospitals and water supplies have been intentionally destroyed by TPLF. The population needs urgent assistance.

APDA has been at the forefront in running relief efforts and rebuilding the extensive damage in the Afar region. Dir Biyabir is honored to help APDA in it's much needed work.

Many thanks to all who donated to this fundraiser and demonstrated support for the Afar people in their time of need. We wish the best to Maalika and the Afar people.


Afar Pastoralist Development Association
Qafar Dacarsitoh Dadalih Egla
CASH RECEIPT VOUCHER
Date 07/03/2022
№ 4110
Received from Dir Biyabir
Received for Emergency Assistance to displaced people
Amount in Figures 10,837.02
Amount in Birr Five Hundred forty thousand eight Hundred Ninety seven and 02/100 Cent Only.
See the attached receipt
Cheque Number
Cash
Received & Signature
FOR ACCOUNT USE ONLY
Prepared By
Posted By
Checked & Approved By
Distribution:- 1st Copy to Receiver 2nd Copy to finance 3rd Copy Remain with Pad

Receipt for $10,644.08 sent to APDA March 04, 2022

School Sponsorship - N.Shewa

Dir Biyabir continued support for a school sponsorship program that was kicked-off in 2012. The program was proposed by our local partner ADHENO to sponsor the education of girls in seven kebeles in Bassona Worana Wereda in Northern Shewa. ADHENO identified that there are many girls in the area who wanted to attend school but were unable to afford even basic school material. In 2014 Dir Biyabir had sponsored 139 elementary school girls and 28 secondary school girls. Dir Biyabir sponsorship starts at 9th grade and covers all of high school, then continues to the end of university or college/technical training for each sponsored girl that continues her education.

2022- 2023 Academic Year

Dir Biyabir continued the school sponsorship program for the 2022-2023 academic year by supporting 4 university and 5 college students that remain in our school sponsorship program. These are students that have been supported by Dir Biyabir from the beginning of high school. In addition, we continued to support 139 elementary school students by providing them with stationary that their families can not afford to purchase for them. All sponsored students are girls from families who can not fund their education.

Due to the rapidly increasing inflation and associated cost of goods in Ethiopia, funding for each student was increased as follows:

- $144.88 (7,590 birr) per student for each of 4 university students for 2022/23 academic year. This is an increase from $102 per student last academic year
- $185.16 (9,700 birr) per student for each of 5 college students for 2022/23 academic year. This is an increase from $145.62 per student last academic year
- $18.33 (960 birr) per student for each of 139 elementary school students for 2022/23 academic year. This is an increase from $14.73 per student last academic year

Total cost for the 2022-2023 academic year including 20% overhead for managing the program was $4,863 (254,760 birr).

We wish our students much success in their academic programs!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Revenue		
Membership Fees		10,651.29
General Donations from Individuals		10,194.36
Afar Relief Fundraiser (continuation from 2021)		5,450.00
Relief for Amhara IDP from Wellega Fundraiser		24,692.70
Northern Shewa Rebuilding Fundraiser		52,278.80
Total micro-grants (Amazon Smile, United Way, PayPal Giving Fund)		553.29
Donation from Dir Biyabir management team for operating expenses		3,033.00
Total 2022 Revenue		**106,853.44**
Expenses		
Grants Paid Out		95,200.08
Afar Relief - APDA	10,644.08	
Relief for Amhara IDP from Wellega - ADHENO	29,693.00	
Northern Shewa Rebuilding - ADHENO	50,000.00	
School Girl Sponsorship - ADHENO	4,863.00	
Operating Expenses*		675.34
Tax	195.00	
Bank/Wire Fees	225.00	
P O Box rental fees	182.00	
Web Hosting Fee	73.34	
Total 2022 Expense		**95,875.42**
Total 2022 Revenue Less Total 2022 Expense		**10,978.02**
Ending balance from 2021		48,386.27
Total 2021 Revenue – Total 2021 Expense		10,978.02
2022 Ending Balance		**59,364.29**
2022 Adjustment for balance discrepancy		132.75
2022 Adjusted Ending Balance		**59,231.54**

***Note** - starting 2022 and moving forward, Dir Biyabir is reporting all revenue items net PayPal fees. Thus PayPal fees will no longer be broken out as a separate operating expense line item.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

Stated 2022 Goals	Actual 2022 Accomplishment
Drive specific rebuilding efforts in Amhara region: • Identify specific areas where Dir Biyabir can play a role • Identify local partners to implement the project • Fundraising drives • Implement and monitor progress	Worked with local partner ADHENO to get detailed assessment of damage to schools and clinics in N. Shewa due to invasion by TPLF terrorists. Initiated fundraiser and wired $50,000 to kick-off project for rehabilitation of schools and clinic
Identify new funding partners for Dir Biyabir or ADHENO for Environmental projects	No new funding partners identified. Goal not met.
Grow membership	Goal not met, no significant growth in membership
Fund new projects with current partners like Zagol Book Bank	Due to the tragic continuation of terror attacks on Amhara civilians Dir Biyabir focused on more emergency relief projects
Enhance presence on social media: Twitter, FaceBook	Fundraiser updates posted on Twitter. A new Dir Biyabir YouTube channel has been opened, and videos on emergency relief efforts have been posted
Re-start the publishing of Quarterly/Semi-Annual Reports. More website updates	Website updated with all project details. Goal not met for publishing Quarterly/ Semi-Annual Reports.

GOALS FOR 2023

- Fundraise for, and implement additional emergency relief for Amhara IDP settled in Debre Birhan.
- Fundraise for, and implement economic empowerment projects for women victimized by TPLF terrorists during their invasion of the holy town of Lalibela.
- Fund new projects supporting education in N.Shewa.
- Increase Dir Biyabir membership.
- Enhance presence on social media: Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and FaceBook
- Re-start the publishing of Quarterly/Semi-Annual Reports. More website updates

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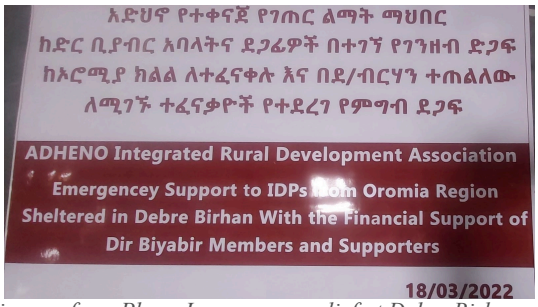
Thank You To Our Donors and Members !

In 2022, donations from Dir Biyabir members and supporters, as well as generous corporate matching funds have enabled us to fund critical emergency relief to displaced Amhara and Afar civilians. A very big **Thank You** goes to all our members and supporters!



Signage from Phase I emergency relief at Debre Birhan

If you like what we do, please be a part of it by participating in our fundraisers, joining Dir Biyabir as a member, diligently renewing your membership annually, and encouraging your friends and family to join. We are happy to do the significant work of running this platform in a transparent and accountable manner…. but we are only as strong as our numbers, so **please help us spread the word!** The more we can expand our funding base, the more tangible impact we can make rebuilding lives in Ethiopia.

For our part, we will continue to commit that 100% of membership fees and donations that we receive will be allocated to projects in Ethiopia.

Our name is inspired by a popular Ethiopian proverb **"Dir Biyabir Anbessa Yassir"** - "When Spider Webs Unite, They Can Tie Up a Lion". It reminds us of the inherent strength in numbers. Thank you for all your support in 2022, we look forward to working with you to improve even more lives in Ethiopia in 2023!