

# **Hope Enterprises**

## **Quarterly Report**

**(October, November and December 2007)**

### **Part 1: Headquarters**

The headquarters finalized the revision of the manual of policy and procedures of the organization adding a number of new components such as gender policy, retirement policy, code of ethics for employees and the various aspects of the Hope University College. The Board subsequently studied it and endorsed it. We had a number of visitors during the quarter. Ethiopiaid, a major donor of both our Addis Ababa activities and the Hope University College, visited and evaluated our work in Addis Ababa in October and gave us nine out of ten. A group of doctors from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, California, came and did a lot of cure and teaching in our rift valley operations. A big challenge in our operation during the quarter was the rapid and increasing cost of living that was figured out to be 18%. In November, we thus adjusted our scale to this rate across the board much to the happiness of our employees.

We carried out a number of training programs to improve quality in service delivery in a number of areas. We had to modernize our equipment pool in our vocational programs and purchased as many text books as possible from government for our schools. We also introduced breakfast for our children under our family based child care in Gambella and Assosa. This was heaven sent and we could notice improvements in concentration and health pretty much right after. Following the President's attendance of the Pan African Forum on Children in Cairo, as sponsored by Africa Union and Unicef, he came up with the idea of children's parliament as an important tool to empower children in speaking for their rights in our schools. After some discussion with our management, this idea was introduced in our schools and vocational training centers. We also had organizations like Create trust, who gave training on how children can be encouraged to voice their opinion.

The main office had been busy with the formation of the Hope University College. As the construction has been proceeding pretty much on schedule the work of the curriculum and the organization of the system of the college was intensified with the expert assistance of Judy and Gary Kenny. At the same time, the President was finishing the operational agreement with the government. During this period, the contributor of the master plan, Mr. Hans Treurniet and the chief architect, Mr. Daniel De Wit, were in town and visited the construction much to their satisfaction. Dr. Minas took Mr. Daniel De Wit, to Dessie to visit the Dessie Referral Hospital, a regional public hospital catering to some seven million people. The hospital was in an urgent need of repair and upgrading. Daniel offered to redesign the hospital after extensive discussion with the regional and hospital authorities. Dr. Minas was selected to be a part of the first citizen's consultation forum in the country, along with known people in the country to dialogue with government on issues of democratization, peace, national image and development. He joined the opportunity with much hope for meaningful inputs in a number of areas

## **Part 2: Ladders of Hope**

### **The Addis Ababa Branch**

#### **Full Family-Based Child Care**

There were a total of 403 students (187 boys and 216 girls) supported by the program through the end of December. As of January, however, one student's death and another's change in residence brought the total to 401. 398 of these students attend Hope School, and the remaining three attend schools outside of HOPE. Replacement of these two vacancies is in the process. The branch office purchased food supplies at costs much higher than anticipated. The breakfast program started this quarter, and the children had bread and a cup of tea before school. The children were very happy because of the breakfast program, and the teachers also noted that the children seemed to be more active in class with the extra nutrition. 403 school uniforms and pairs of shoes were distributed. The monthly meetings with the parents/guardians of the children continued. Forty-eight students visited hospitals and clinics.

#### **Partial Family-Based Child Care**

This program currently supports 164 students (84 male and 80 female). During the reporting period, all students were provided with school uniforms and the monthly lunch allowance of 33.00 Birr. They were also given medical services when necessary. Out of the total number of students, 107 attend Hope School, 12 attend school elsewhere, seven students are in preparatory schools, one another technical school, two students are in different colleges, 33 are in Hope Vocational Training Center, and two students are enrolled at Addis Ababa University. Within this project are 25 women, mothers of some of our Hope School students, each of whom received a set of kitchen utensils, a Mitad, and a quintal of *teff* to make injera and sell to get extra income. Most of the women are very encouraged by the project, and have already started saving money from their profits.

#### **Feeding Center**

Hope's Feeding Center continues to feed the hungry at capacity hospitality involving 700 homeless and destitute people a day. A nutritious lunch is provided to these people, and for most of them, it is the only decent meal they get throughout the day. Some of these people are eventually employed. Bulk purchase of Soya beans, cooking oil and red peppers were made at high prices again during the quarter in this quarter.

#### **Street Children's Breakfast Program**

This program continued to provide breakfast for about 630 street children every morning. Each child gets two loaves of bread, a banana, and a glass of milk mixed with tea for breakfast. After breakfast, the children are taught basic literacy and lessons from the

Bible by volunteer teachers. On November 6, Mr. TeiJo Venema and Mr. Rob Maarseveen (visitors from a Dutch NGO called TTAF) donated 50 shoeshine boxes to the children. Shoe shining is one of the means through which many of street children can earn some money often Birr seven being the average daily earning.

### **Hope School, Addis Ababa**

In order to improve the academics of both the Hope School and the Vocational Training Center, the Addis Ababa Branch, in collaboration with Mr. Graham Peebles of the *Create trust* foundation, conducted a five-week teacher-training program for the faculty and staff in October and November. The main purpose of the training was to strengthen academics by fostering good relationships between the students and the teachers, as well as between the teachers and the administration. Among the issues discussed were corporal punishment and child participation and empowerment in every aspect of the school's decision-making. On October 5, the school held its second faculty meeting for the academic year. The assignment of Mr. Hurruma Jiru as the unit leader was also announced. Mr. Hurruma immediately began the myriad responsibilities, such as resolving student discipline issues, student tardiness and absenteeism, cleanliness of the classrooms and the compound, and assisting the faculty and management in various capacities. There are currently 21 faculty members, of which 15 are full-time, and six work on a part-time basis.

Grade 10 students who took the national exams did well; all but six of them qualified to join college preparatory schools, and the girls did relatively better than the boys. The students who did not qualify for college preparatory schools were able to join technical and vocational training education (TVET) centers. Music and Mini Media Club presented a concert and drama at Yehager Fikir Theater in Addis Ababa. Five members of the club were given training by Save the Children-Sweden on road traffic laws, child rights, operation of digital mini media and broadcasting services. A workshop on HIV/AIDS was also conducted for four days for 67 students (31 male and 36 female).

### **Community-Based Educational Support**

There are currently two types of community-based educational support programs under the Addis Ababa branch. The one already in place is called Community-Based Educational Support for Street Children. These children are recruited from the Street Children's breakfast program, which currently supports 350 street children (187 boys and 163 girls) attending 46 government schools. The newly developed community-based educational support program was approved this quarter by the Social and NGO Affairs Bureau and supports 400 students (80 at each school) in Bole Sub city. The support includes uniforms and footwear, school supplies and books.

### **School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa**

The night classes of basic adult education continued to be very popular with the 250 women who are receiving basic literacy instruction and other important education, like

STD and HIV/AIDS education. Every day, more and more women are asking the branch manager to be a part of the program. The five teachers of the school of home workers were given three days of training on December 14, 15, and 16, funded by Save the Children-Sweden, the donor for the school of home workers program. The topics were tools for student participation and active learning. The training was especially designed to meet the educational needs of the teachers, so they can better serve such a special group of students.

### **Scholarships for University Students**

There are 15 students (5 female and 10 male) supported under this program; nine of them attend Addis Ababa University, and the other six attend Debub University, Jimma University, and Alemaya University. They are given transportation fees, pocket money, and school supplies.

### **Hope Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa**

The total number of trainees in the technical and vocational skill training is 128 (83 male and 45 female). Of these, 38 are in Electrical Technology, 40 in General Mechanics, 18 in Wood Work and 32 in International Hotel and Catering Services. The recruitment of the first year trainees happened in September with a recruitment committee consisting of Hope staff, Kebele administration, and representatives of the community. 82 students were selected, and 67 of them (30 female and 37 male) are sponsored by Hope and the remaining 15 are sponsored by other organizations.

On December 9–16, the Vocational Training head, Mr. Daniel Teshome, along with Mr. Mesfin Amerga, a General Mechanics instructor, visited the Netherlands to participate in a meeting organized by Woord en Daad. Their presentation was on the new curriculum called Business and Entrepreneur Skill Training (BEST) being taught at Hope's Vocational Training Center. BEST teaches our students all the aspects of business plan preparations, including market analysis, starting a business, and staying profitable. We made a plan to modernize our machinery pool for the various vocational programs and engaged in much bulk purchasing.

From October 2 – 4, evaluators, Dr. Nuria Fuente and Mrs. Lebesech Tsega from Woord en Daad and Edukas Foundation evaluated the teaching and learning strategies of our vocational program. After their observations, they held a debriefing session at which they commended HOPE on various points, and made recommendations for the areas where HOPE needs improvement. Positive reinforcement included: responsiveness to market demand in the training; opportunities of employment and self-employment; efforts to adapt skills; linking theory and practice; availability of teaching materials; participatory selection process; clear and transparent selection criteria, and consideration of gender equity. Some recommendations for improvements were: need-based training and capacity enhancement of teachers and management staff; ensuring that graduates acquire the competence to fulfill occupational standards; and systematization of the follow-up of the trainees in the apprenticeship program. The Addis Ababa Education Bureau invited

the Hope Vocational Training to participate in the Addis Ababa Millennium Skills Competition, which was conducted on September 22 and 23 at Entoto Technical College. Of the five areas of competition, HOPE Vocational Training Center applied to the two and made it in the top ten.

### **Job and Business Mediation for graduates**

By the end of the quarter, of the 73 graduates, a total of 63 trainees (35 female and 28 male) got permanent jobs.

## **The Dessie Branch**

The branch submitted terminal reports to the concerned regional bureau. Ms. Kimm Edwards, the sponsor of the Home Workers Project, visited the branch during this reporting quarter with her husband and children.

### **Family-Based Child Care**

A total number of 915 children were supported under the Family-Based Child Care program. Of these, 632 attended Dessie Hope School, 126 were in the Vocational and Technical Training Center, 73 in the preparatory school in Dessie and 84 were in various colleges and universities throughout the country. HOPE provided school uniforms, stationery materials, medical and counseling services, monthly family allowance of 40 birr, shower and food services (breakfast and lunch) and cloth for the 750 students who were in Hope School and the Technical and Vocational Skill Trainees. For those students who were in the preparatory school, school fees, uniform payments, stationery materials and the monthly family stipend payment were completed. With the purpose of minimizing cost, bulk purchase was undertaken. The monthly consultative parental meetings were also undertaken during this quarter. Children's height and weight were measured and their bio-data was compiled. Various lessons were passed during the morning flag ceremony.

### **Hope Junior Clinic**

19 children were treated by the clinic for minor health problems. The clinic's nurse conducted awareness-creation sessions on basic health education, such as environmental sanitation, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS prevention, etc.

### **Food Security Development Project**

Ato Getachew Yossef of Addis Ababa University began the terminal evaluation of the Food Security Development Project. It was also during this quarter that the president of HOPE Enterprises, Dr. Minas Hiruy, undertook a working visit of the beneficiaries of the Food Security Development Project and the accomplished activities, in Ambassel and

Tehuledere districts. On his visit, Dr. Minas had a discussion with the District Administrators, Agriculture and Rural Development Officials, Lower Level Government Structure Leaders and farmer beneficiaries. He was able to note that the process was a participatory and transparent process from the screening of beneficiaries all the way to the implementation of the project.

### **Hope School, Dessie**

There are a total of 632 students in the school (313 male and 319 female). Training on school improvement framework was conducted, in collaboration with other schools of Dessie. The focus of the training was establishing standards of an ideal best school, and evaluating one's own school performance in view of those standards. After evaluating the existing situations of schools, the training focused on formulating measurable objectives with improvement plans. By taking into consideration the nationwide educational improvement training and the context of the school itself, the training conducted an assessment of school stakeholders, mainly students, teachers and community members, to take corrective actions.

Based on the annual program, the daily educational plan was submitted to the educational department and it has been subsequently implemented. The weekly educational plan was also prepared, based on the weekly radio program. HOPE bought books for Chemistry, Physics and Biology for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and distributed them to each student. With the purpose of improving the academic performance of the students, performance assessment tests were given as per the schedule. Tutorial classes were also conducted to help keep up those students who lagged behind academically. The monthly teachers' meeting focused on further strengthening the strong sides of the school. Different committees, such as the Educational Committee, Examination and Assessment Committee, Youth and Teachers Committee, Educational Competition Committee, School Improvement Committee and Extra-Curricular Education Committee were operational during this quarter. A total of 529 students supervised by 23 teachers were active in clubs such as Language and Literature Club, Sport Club, Health and Anti AIDS Club, Ranked Students Club, Ethics and Citizenship Club, Class Monitors Club, Mini Media Club and Girls Club.

### **Community-Based Education Support**

This project was re-introduced again considering the much it does to needy youngsters that would have otherwise stopped out of school. A total of 400 needy children (242 female and 158 male) were selected for the project and were supported attending 8 different schools in Dessie with the provision of educational materials, school uniforms and school fees.

### **School of Home Workers, Dessie**

The education given to the 120 female home workers continued during this quarter. Stationery materials like pens, pencils and exercise books were distributed to each of them. HOPE, as the only organization in the state perhaps in the country to make such an

intervention and positively impact the lives of these home workers. Many people expressed their heart-felt gratitude to the organization for addressing such a marginalized sector of the community. During his visit to the branch, Dr. Minas Hiruy made a speech of encouragement and advice to these home workers.

### **Scholarships for University Students**

A total of 84 university students were supported under this program.

### **Hope Vocational Training Center, Dessie**

A total of 63 students (31 female and 32 male) were chosen to be admitted to the freshman class in September. Of these 59 are sponsored by HOPE and the remaining four, by Drsha organization. With this addition the total number of students came to 126 with 68 of them being girls. The government of the country had a curriculum change in vocational skills training, and we were told to change accordingly. One thing that we had to do was increase the training by one more year effective from September. We attended the familiarization training to the new curriculum sponsored by the Zonal Education Office.

The stream of Secretarial Science and Office Management had weekend classes to improve computer literacy. Some of the activities accomplished under the Construction Technology stream include the production of building blocks, maintenance of a water pipe line for the children's dining room, student showers, and class room doors and walls. The general mechanics stream engaged trainees in maintenance of class room doors, windows, chairs, tables, etc. The electrical technology stream had the trainees install electric lines in the newly constructed ITC building, repair dysfunctional electric lines and socket outlets in the workshops and elsewhere in the compound. Trainees received work-clothes, stationery materials, and food and shower services.

### **Job and Business Mediation for Graduates**

Based on the permission we received from the regional Technical and Vocational Training Agency, our 10+3 graduates took a college entrance exam, and most passed with good grades and were admitted. Those who did not pass the exam were organized into a work cooperative. The legalization process of the cooperative will be finalized soon. Out of a total number of 51 graduates, 30 (22 male and 8 female) are now following their college education. Eleven graduates got jobs in this reporting quarter.

## **The Gambella Area Project**

### **Family-Based Child Care**

A total number of 560 children (286 male and 274 female) were cared for during this reporting quarter. We provided the usual support of school uniforms and food (breakfast

and lunch) every day except on Sundays. The organization allocated an additional budget for food expenses, and this change brought about an increase in the quality of food and a significant physical growth on the part of the children. Thirty-nine children, of whom 16 are boys, got medical treatment for illnesses. The children and their parents/guardians have been gathering every Saturday during the reporting quarter to discuss environmental sanitation, gender issues, children's personal hygiene, academic performance, etc.

### **Hope School, Gambella**

Students were provided with school uniforms and supplies. The high school became operational with the start of grade nine in the newly built rooms. The tutorial classes, which were conducted three times a week, were appreciated by the students. According to the school's report, the academic performance of all students has shown improvement during the quarter when compared with other schools in the region. Extra-curricular activities continued to be operational with the Drama Club, Question & Answer Club, the Anti-HIV/AIDS Club, the Girls Club, the Environmental Sanitation Club and the Sports Club being very active. The school got an award for millennium competition.

### **Community-Based Child Care**

Of the 102 children in the program early in the quarter, 33 of them left the program for personal reasons leaving behind 69 children under our care. The parents/guardians of the children were appreciative of the support given to the children. During the quarter, 24 children (15 boys and 9 girls), received medical treatment.

### **Construction of the High school and the Vocational Training Center, Gambella**

The construction of the high school, vocational skill training center with offices, guest house, library, dining hall and toilets has been going smoothly. According to the contractor's report, the overall accomplishment status by the end of the quarter was 85%. The consultant visited the construction activity and monitored the progress of the work. On the whole the performance has been satisfactory with the state being appreciative of the investment and the media reporting on the construction as a pioneering and serious investment in a region of much potential.

### **Scholarships for University Students**

Under this project, a total of 13 university students have been supported with bedding, educational materials and stipend to cover the remaining expenses.

### **Daycare Project and Community Based Education Support**

This project is implemented at four different sites in Gambella, each supporting 40 children. The support includes breakfast and lunch every day except Sunday and a day care service up to noon. Of the 160 children, 77 are girls.

# **The Assosa Area Project**

## **Family Based Child Care**

We provided lunch for the 200 children under our care everyday except on Sundays. In addition, from November 19, 2007 onward, we started providing breakfast as well. The monthly allowance of 40 birr was distributed to each child's parents, and on the day of allowance distribution, issues like personal hygiene of the children, their academic performance and punctuality for class were discussed with parents. Every Monday during the morning queue, we checked the hygiene of the children and contacted the parents of those that were not sufficiently clean. A total number of 40 students (13 girls and 27 boys) received medical treatment during this reporting quarter. The most common causes of illnesses were malaria, typhoid, the common cold, and headaches. School uniforms and shoes were purchased and distributed to the students during this reporting quarter. Correspondence activities were also carried out during the reporting quarter. All the 200 children sent Christmas letters to their sponsors. During this reporting quarter, we participated in a consultative forum organized by the region's Finance and Economic Development Bureau. During this meeting, the GO-NGOs guideline, prepared by the mentioned government bureau, was discussed by the participants.

## **Hope School, Assosa**

All the 200 children (108 female and 92 male) have been following their education attentively. During this quarter, nine students dropped out of the program, due to residential changes, and were replaced by other students. The Leave Form of drop-outs and the Child Identity Form of the new recruits were prepared and sent to the main office. Teachers prepared annual lesson plans for each subject and also prepared and submitted the daily lesson plan to the area Project Officer every Friday and taught accordingly. With the purpose of evaluating the academic performance of students, in-class educational competitions were conducted for the previous seven weeks. On the basis of the findings from the competitions, discussions were held with teachers, and some corrective measures were taken. Based on the program of the education, continuous assessments were conducted in the four classes and the result was encouraging. During the quarter, a joint parent-teacher committee was established and we were ready to implement the newly prepared School System Framework Program, introduced by the Ministry of Education. All of our teachers took the training in the program.

## **The Construction Project, Assosa**

The Executive Director, the Finance Director and the Director of Projects visited the 1 construction site. The progress covered 54% of the work and the pace was evaluated as slow. It was also visited by our consultant, who raised points pertaining to quality and where corrections need to be made.

# **The Rift Valley Area Project**

## **The Hirara Child Care and Training Center**

### **Family-Based child Care**

A total number of 200 children (107 male and 93 female) were supported by the program. We provided lunch for all of them every day except on Sundays. A total of 25 students visited health centers for various ailments. It was reported that the common cold was among the major ailments that caused the children to be sick. The monthly parent meetings were conducted, and the topics discussed included academic performance of the children, environmental sanitation, personal hygiene and student punctuality for class.

### **Food Security Development Project**

Evaluation of the project was done by the external evaluator, Mr. Getachew Yossef after the evaluation of similar project in Wollo. The evaluation was funded by Woord & Daad, which also funded the project.

### **Hope School, Hirara**

All the 200 students (107 boys and 93 girls) attended their education attentively during this reporting quarter. We provided school uniforms and shoes for each of them. As part of the continuous performance assessment, quizzes were given fortnightly. Based on the findings from these quizzes, corrective actions were also taken. Dr. Minas Hiruy, president of HOPE Enterprises, visited the school.

### **Adult Education**

At the beginning of this reporting quarter, a total number of 63 adult members of the community (35 male and 28 female) were selected for this program based on set criteria. Hope's staff representative and village leaders were members of the ad hoc recruiting committee. Educational materials were distributed to all who were chosen. The type of education provided includes environmental education, arithmetic, and reading and writing in the local language of Oromiffa. Other health issues like family planning and prevention of HIV/AIDS were also part of the education provided. The number of targeted individuals is expected to increase to 100 as of January 2008.

### **Water Development Project**

The technical proposal was completed by a hydro-engineer from Kale Hiwot Church. He proposed two sites for borehole drilling, one inside the school campus and the other near to Lake Ziway, which is about 300m away from the school. According to the engineer, a geological study must be conducted in order to identify the proper area of drilling. Tear Fund Australia is interested to finance the project.

## **The Roggie Child Care and Training Center**

### **Family Based Child Care**

All the 200 children (103 male and 97 female) were provided with hot meals every day except on Sundays. At the end of November, a group of physicians from Menlo Park Presbyterian church, consisting of two doctors, five nurses, one Ethiopian nurse and four other members, conducted medical examinations and treated some of the illnesses of the children and the surrounding community. After the examinations, the group found that illnesses like upper respiratory symptoms cough, fever, nasal congestion, upper abdominal pain, diarrhea, gastritis and headaches prevailed in the community. Medical treatment was given to 200 children and 100 community members. The children took anti-worm medication and cut their finger nails short. The group also had an awareness-creation session with the community where they taught about maintaining good health.

### **Hope School, Roggie**

Continuous performance assessments were conducted, and based on the results, tutorial classes were given for 30 students who lagged behind. The teaching-learning process continued as per the daily and weekly lesson plans. We distributed school uniforms and shoes for each of the 200 students. In October, a group of six Americans, led by Todd Johnson, visited the school. The usual parent meetings were held, and the topics discussed included academic performance of students, family planning, environmental sanitation, HIV / AIDS, etc. The first semester of the academic year was completed with 60% of them scoring pass mark. During this reporting quarter, the Western Arusi Zone Economic and Finance Bureau called a meeting and two of our teachers (Ato. Tefera Tadesse and Ato Birhanu Bedasso) participated. The meeting stressed the need to create close working relationships and collaboration between GOs (government organizations) and NGOs, and to have the full participation of the target community when projects are designed.

### **The Water Project**

Water was being distributed to the community twice a day. The distribution has been controlled by the established committee. The beneficiaries paid money to the committee to cover the expenses of diesel from the pump and salary for guards and other workers.

## **Part 3: The Hope University College**

### **Construction**

The construction of the university college speeded up during the reporting period. By the end of the period, the foundation works of the complexes for student services, the two class rooms, the management complex, and the library were completed. The president continued to visit the site

twice a week and being in constant contact with Mr. Niek Hoffius, the project manager seconded to Hope by Woord & Daad, he addressed issues such as the timeliness of the construction, variation factors, quality of materials used, staffing as per the contract and the quality of the workmanship itself. He also attended a number of the meetings that the contractor, the consultant and the project manager held every other Thursday together. Considering the rising cost overrun involving particularly rebars, cement, labor and transportation in the light of the rise in gasoline prices, various points were raised on how to keep the cost variations down. We explored imports only to find out that the savings were minimal considering cost increases across the seas. Importing cement was considered but with the quantity being too small, it was abandoned.

With local purchases of cement and rebars the work continued unabated. Mr. Hoffius wrote the progress report illustrating the same with pictures. The report was sent to our partners and to our web site manager, Mr. John Van Deman for posting. The modern asphalt roads leading to the campus from two ends of the city were completed with side walks and modern lights. What a surprise making the campus accessible

### **Curriculum and Governance**

Hope being committed to make the college a center of excellence, had gained the willingness of Gary and Judy Kenny, qualified and experienced educators from the US to design the curriculum and the organizational aspect. They came during the quarter and worked out the details with the president. Woord & Daad accepted to fund their expenses as they volunteered their time. We planned for them to do the legislation, the college catalog, the student and faculty handbooks and to help with book and faculty searches and fund raising. They submitted the first draft of the legislation at the end of December and planned to come in March for review of the legislation and assumption of the subsequent work. Parallel to their engagement, two Dutch universities planned to send a delegation in March to study what specializations in the Business field the college is most suited to offer. The plan is once the overall software of the college is set by way of legislation, general knowledge and the specializations then the other details will follow. At the same time, Hope was fortunate in having members such as Cida University of South Africa and the British Council as members of the Advisory board. A meeting is planned once the draft legislation and curriculum is completed.

### **Operational Agreement**

The present has been working with the ministry of Education and the Disaster prevention and Preparedness Agency on the draft agreement to regarding the university college. The draft agreement is to qualify the university college for duty free importation of items and VAT free status. The draft has been approved agreed upon by all signatories.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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