

HOPE Enterprises
Quarterly Report
(April, May and June 2005)

I: Headquarters

The improvement of the quality of academic education at HOPE being a priority for us, we had our schools evaluated externally by a consultant named Marike de Kloe from the Netherlands. Marike spent three months visiting all of our schools and seeing the reality of educating from inside out. Her useful findings were finally released for our Board's consideration. Realizing the need for similar improvements in our vocational training, we started examining a number of factors like attracting and keeping qualified faculty, appropriate textbooks and the use of the Internet. Here as well, a decision was made to raise the level of vocational training in our Addis Ababa Branch to a junior college level with the view to training better staff for our vocational training. Though the processing of the land for the HOPE University College took a substantial portion of the president's time, we finally had the good news of the authorization of a land holding with an area of 50,000 square meters or 12.35 acres by the Lease Board on April 14, 2005.

In April, the President, Dr. Minas Hiruy, and other four staff members left for Holland to attend a conference on Job and Income organized by Woord & Daad. The conference revolved around enabling graduates like ours embark on businesses of their own. Dr. Minas made three presentations on ethics and vocational training, advocacy and lobbying and Job and Income using HOPE's experience to the participants and to the business platform involving no less than 80 company owners. After the conference, Dr. Minas stayed behind and touched base with a number of interested companies about the Ladders of HOPE and the HOPE University College. As regards the former, a lot of discussion revolved around ways and means to use expertise from the north on short and long-term bases in our vocational programs. As regards the latter, we set up two interest groups with one focusing on the construction and the other on the curriculum of the college. Furthermore, with the resolution of the land issue for the college, the owner of Geluk Treurniet Architecten and the architect of the same firm planned to come in July to set up the production unit for the building plans based on the ir scrutiny of the actual site. At the end of May, HOPE was represented in another seminar on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi as sponsored by Educaids.

During the quarter, the preparation of the 2006 budget was completed and Mr. Benyam Shibru was hired as the Director of Projects following an open recruitment. The position had been left vacant when the incumbent became the Executive Director of HOPE. Various guests were also hosted. Mr. Wim Hasselman and Mr. Pascal Ooms from Woord en Daad visited the Addis Ababa and Dessie branches and Mr. Wim Simonse visited our Gambella operation. The Assosa Area Project got the long awaited title deed as plans to start the construction of the elementary school got underway. At the same time, the bill of quantities for the Gambella construction was completed to proceed with bidding formalities. HOPE spearheaded the revision of the Code of Conduct for NGOs in Ethiopia and the groundwork for the registration of the Code Observance Committee.

II. The Ladders of HOPE

During the reporting period, the Addis Ababa Branch prepared and submitted a terminal report to the City Government on April 4, 2005. This step was followed by an evaluation of our activities on site by the federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission and the Addis Ababa City's Social and NGO Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau and the Kolfe-Keranio Sub-city from May 10 to 15, 2005. Ato Zenebe Ayele, the Executive Director and Ato Solomon Tesfaye, the Manager of the Addis Ababa Branch facilitated the evaluation. Then a wrap up discussion involving our management committee and the Board was held on July 3, 2005. The evaluation was very affirming and it encouraged HOPE to go on with the good work. The evaluation also appreciated HOPE's initiative in job and income for the graduates and the HOPE University College. Based on the findings of the evaluation, anticipated needs and support possibilities, the Executive Director submitted our proposal of activities in the branch for the ensuing five years.

In its rural work, HOPE has transformed its intervention from rescue and rehabilitation to food security development through the maintenance of its livestock restocking and seed distribution initiatives. It would also be involved in water harvesting through catchments and river diversion for continuous use in plant and animal husbandry for a period of three years. Three woredas in South Wollo Zone, Worebabo, Tehuledere and Ambassel will benefit from this groundbreaking intervention following the signing of an agreement with the state government. The Executive Director has been doing a good work in holding the fort of the ladders of HOPE, strengthening our new operations in the Rift Valley and getting into the groove of relations with our donors as the President increasingly focused on the college.

The Addis Ababa Branch

As we approached the end of the academic year, preparation for the upcoming year picked up momentum. Recruitment of beneficiaries for the 2005/2006 academic year was first on our agenda. Hence, a committee comprising of representatives from the kebele (local government), the community and HOPE was organized to facilitate the recruitment. The branch also started the preliminary work to transform its vocational training into a junior college.

Full Family Based Childcare

A total of 252 (124 male and 128 female) beneficiaries were assisted under this program. We had a total of 51 children in KG1, 49 in KG2, 50 in the first grade, 51 in the second grade, 49 in the third grade, 1 in the seventh grade and ninth grade. The provision of food, clothing, distribution of educational supplies, guidance and counseling went smoothly. Parents/guardians of the children received their monthly allowance to cover the additional expense of the children. The social worker and the childcare officer monitored the stipend regularly. The office covered the medical expense for 43 children who had fevers and the common cold. In a tragic event, one child had a car accident and sustained

leg and head injuries. Our prayers and visits helped him to recover fully and resume his education. Meanwhile, 41 children received letters, stickers, pens, pencils, puzzle, handkerchief, ring, colors, and sharpeners from their sponsors. The children in return sent thank you letters.

Partial Family Based Child Care

Two more youngsters, Kassahun Lengo and Gezahegn Shibru, have been accepted to join this program from the Kolfe Keranio Administrative Division after a careful inspection of the children’s background and living conditions. These additions brought the total number of children being assisted to 162 (97 male and 65 female) children. Of these, 135 students were enrolled from grade two to grade ten, 18 in different vocational streams and believe or not nine students in universities.

Feeding Center

Through this program we continued providing a hot lunch to 660 people everyday except Sunday. Due to the growing number of migrants from the rural areas, the number of beneficiaries increased dramatically. Around 51,151 people were served at the center during the past three months. The center was a good thermometer of hunger in Ethiopia. As about nine million people were reported to be in need of food in the country and as assistance for this population was short in coming, the feeding center was a reliable safety valve to those that could make it to the capital city of the country. Several visitors voluntarily took part in serving the meals. The center was also able to donate food supplies and soap to Moses Children’s Home at a time the home was short of food for its children. The table below gives a breakdown of the fed by age and gender.

Month	Child	Female	Male	Total
April	804	8165	8191	17,260
May	876	8113	7841	16,830
June	805	8109	8247	17,161
Total	2,485	24,387	24,275	51,151

Street Children’s Breakfast

Under this project, 530 children continued to be served with hot milk, bread and two bananas daily except on Sundays. Elementary numeric and literacy skills were also taught. During the quarter, a voluntary group of Ethiopian girls from the United States cooked a special breakfast of egg, toast and juice for the children. During their stay the group played with the children, donating footballs, skipping ropes and sets of crayons. The children were very excited and overwhelmed by this kind gesture.

Girl’s of HOPE

The last eight girls that were supported under this program successfully completed their training and received their certificates during this quarter. Five of them took a one-year

training in videography and the remaining in cosmetology. The branch was engaged in setting up the graduates in their own businesses.

HOPE School, Addis Ababa

HOPE school had 819 students. By the end of the semester in June, 676 students were promoted to the next grade and 23 students repeated. 60 Eighth grade students took the national exam and another 60 took the tenth grade national examination. The school was chosen to serve as the center for both exams with 960 students coming to the campus. A meeting was held to evaluate the teaching and learning process of the second semester in the presence of the schoolteachers and the principal. Comments and helpful suggestions were forwarded and discussed. The teachers were also instructed to prepare lesson plans for the ensuing academic year and submit the same before July 28, 2005. Overall, the academic year 2004/2005 was completed successfully.

Club activities were also alive and well. Literature, drama and mini media clubs had different programs for Parent's Day. The themes revolved around child problems, the influence of parents on children, HIV/AIDS and gender issues. Club members of music practiced different spiritual songs three days a week. The sports club, which had soccer match with two different schools, won the game. The anti HIV/AIDS club educated its members and the school community about the transmission of HIV/AIDS and protection and prevention measures. The need to respect those persons living with HIV/AIDS was also underscored. Under the supervision of four teachers, the **Agerehen Eweqe** club, consisting of 24 students, visited the Wonji Sugar Factory, 120 Kms East of Addis Ababa, along the Awash River.

Community Based Educational Support for Street Children

350 (198 male and 152 female) beneficiaries under this program attended their lessons at various levels in 32 different government schools. These beneficiaries have been catered with breakfast each day of the week except Sunday. The children showed significant weight gain and physical growth. Preparation and coaching of students for the final semester exam was conducted to enhance their achievement. School visits by the social worker was done to assess school attendance and performance.

Vocational Training Center

Considering a number of factors, it was decided to elevate the level of the vocational training in Addis Ababa to a junior college. For starters the programs that would benefit from this upgrading were electrical technology, general mechanics and construction technology. It was also during this time we introduced computer-assisted learning in the vocational classrooms with an addition of more computers for the assisted leaning using a number of softwares that were brought from Belgium.

All 194 youngsters successfully completed their semester training for the 2004/2005 academic year. All of the trainees were apprenticed in different organizations starting from April 1 and May 4.

Career Planning and Placement

The Office of Career Planning and Placement contacted various potential employers to get the remaining ten graduates of 2004 employed. Successfully, five of them got employed in private organizations. This meant that 95% of the graduates of 2004 were gainfully employed being a record achievement at a time when the competition for the few jobs is high. The office will continue to search for jobs for the remaining graduates and for those that would soon graduate in July. One plan is to use the job advertising that we used last Winter on prime time TV. That advertising had amazing results and we thought that we could use it in September when business picks up after the rainy season.

Job and Business Center

Abro Adeg Modern Ceramics Cooperative Society, a micro business established in November 2004, performed well earning average monthly sales revenue of Birr 6,000.00. During the quarter, the business developed a strong financial system, management and production capacity. The center also facilitated the establishment of a beauty saloon for two girls with the business starting work at the end of June. The girls owning it were trainees in cosmetology from our Girls of HOPE Project. A number of our other graduates were being prepared to set up three businesses in the areas of plumbing works, automobile service and electrical installation.

The Dessie Branch

During the quarter, the branch manager with the staff hosted a number of groups. Dr. Minas Hiruy brought two guests, Mr. Wim Hasselman and Mr. Pascal Ooms of Woord en Daad and visited all the activities of the branch. A team from America consisting of 13 teachers from full bright School, led by Dr. Alemu Gebrewold (HOPE's board member) and Dr. Fetene Gebrewold from USA (Western Illinois University) stayed for 15 days and discussed and shared experiences with HOPE school teachers. Some of the issues discussed were classroom management, teaching methodologies, implementation of instructional media, student-teacher relationship and the importance of songs and games in facilitating the teaching process. This input had been very helpful for our teachers. The group donated some money and books on different topics. HOPE also donated two world maps and 3,882 books for one elementary school, a high school and the Dessie Teacher's Training College.

Family Based Child Care

In the given quarter a total of 741 children out of the 750 initially enrolled continued having all the benefits of the basic necessities. We reported about the three children that left last quarter. Additional six children did not continue for a number of reasons. Of the six children one was claimed by his uncle, who in time became well off to take care of his kin. The child was also willing to join his uncle. One youngster joined a government training institute while another one a college. Two of them left as their parents moved out

looking for jobs elsewhere. One died because of a tragic accident of a tree falling on her while going somewhere with her parents. HOPE sent a message of condolence to the family and paid for all the funeral expenses. During the quarter, the children got different gifts from their sponsors. Some of the items received were pens, pencils, ex-books and stickers. The children wrote thank-you letters.

HOPE Clinic

The clinic continued to give preventive health education while at the same time attending to health problems among the children. Clinic visits were surprisingly low during the quarter and the referrals as well. The clinic also continued to inspect our food handling ensuring proper hygiene on a regular basis.

HOPE School, Dessie

With the withdrawal of four children, 629 students (330 male and 299 female) continued their education without a hitch. In an inter-school question and answer competition held in the district grade five and eight stood first while grade six and seven stood second. On the academic front, final examinations were administered through out all the sections from June 28-25 2005. 50 students (32 male, 18 female) from grade eight and 46 students (24 male and 22 female) from grade 10 took the regional and national examinations respectively. The school acquired 3,999 student textbooks and 44 teacher guidebooks for grades 1 to 8 from the Education Bureau of the Amhara State. These books will replace the books used and allow each student to have a copy each.

Vocational Training Center

With center having 112 trainees all of them were placed in various organizations for their apprenticeships. As has been a tradition, the branch opened up various opportunities for the trainees to get hands on skills while working. Hence, the secretarial science and office management students typed one Amharic typing training manual to minimize the shortage of books. The trainees of Construction Technology designed a plan and specification for two shower rooms and subsequently built them. They were also involved in the construction of the auditorium. The trainees in general mechanics handled all the metal work involved in the construction of the auditorium and the shower rooms. Electrical technology students on their part made a transformer for the baking stove, handled a number of repairs of electrical appliances and took care of all electrical installations on campus.

Five of our teachers participated in a 15-day workshop organized by the Amhara State TVET Commission with HOPE covering all their training costs. Delegates and experts from the regional bureau paid a visit to our branch to assess and supervise the HOPE school. They had a lengthy discussion with the teachers and principal and expressed their impression on the emphasis given on practical work, the fully equipped workshops with training materials and machines, and the cost effective way of purchasing raw materials for the use of the training.

The following table shows the number of trainees in each department.

Field of study	Year One		Total	Year Two		Total	Grand Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
Secretarial Science & Office Management	-	14	14	-	15	15	29
Construction Technology	8	5	13	7	6	13	26
General Mechanics	9	6	15	7	5	12	27
Electrical Technology	10	5	15	9	6	15	30
Grand Total	27	30	57	24	31	55	112

Career Planning and Placement

In this quarter the effort of placing the remaining eleven graduates from the 2004 class in jobs had continued. The graduates had a number of interviews amidst high competition. Eight of them scored very well on one job opportunity and would rather wait than try being set up in a business.

Job and Business Center

The Job and Business Center was supervising, assisting and consulting established businesses and simultaneously planning on new business prospects. Under the leadership of Ato Mattewos Lendido, a cafeteria named Abenezer Fast Foods Plc. was inaugurated in Dessie in the presence of government officials on June 17, 2005. Five girls who graduated from the HOPE Vocational Training Center, Dessie and were subsequently trained in hotel and home services, own and run the business from a loan that they obtained from a private bank called Dashen with HOPE availing the collateral.

The construction of a business center on an area acquired from the Dessie Municipality had been completed. Two girls, graduates from secretarial science and office management, will be the sole owners of the center. The center will provide telephone service, secretarial service, photocopy service and some stationary item retailing. The establishment of a construction company of some of the graduates of the School of Construction Technology was in process.

Auditorium Construction

Using left over money from the construction of the vocational school as donated by Oikonomos, the construction of an auditorium for the vocational school and the high school proceeded as planned. The construction was spearheaded by the branch using the school of construction technology and the skills of a hired practical para professional. New material of construction was used involving profile and a new type of building block that does not use much cement.

The Gambella Area Project

Family Based Child Care

During this quarter, 440 children were assisted under this program. Of these 55% were female. We have been quite pleased with more girls benefiting from our care given the extreme hardships that they faced. Provisions of food, clothes, school material, medical care and family allowances were executed. The children's performance was discussed with their guardians or parents when the latter came to collect their monthly allowance. This allowance enabled the beneficiaries to supplement their needs at home. During the quarter, 29 children got sick from malaria, typhoid and various skin diseases. They got treatment in the local hospital at HOPE's expense.

The family status of the beneficiaries was revised during this quarter. Out of the 440 beneficiaries, 325 of them had one of their parents alive. 20 of them had both of their parents and 95 of them were full orphans. Regular meetings with the parents/guardians of the beneficiaries were very instrumental in managing our activities and bringing the desired changes in our beneficiaries. As the part parents/guardians play in value formation was indispensable, their responsibilities in this regard were emphasized as problems related to late coming and discipline continued to manifest themselves among the children.

HOPE School, Gambella

A total of 440 students were assisted with their education. Out of these, 415 attended the HOPE School while 25 attended government schools. 36 students took the eighth grade national exam. One of our students was selected as a model student throughout the state and was invited to attend a meeting organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on children's rights on May 7 and 8 in Addis Ababa. Our office was proud to have been represented by one of our beneficiaries.

The branch was visited by Mr. Wim Simonse, VTC Africa coordinator of Woord & Daad from Burkina Faso. He visited the branch with Ato Solomon Tesfaye from May 13- 16 and the possibility of incorporating short agricultural courses in HOPE school was discussed with the branch manager and the state's Agricultural Bureau.

Easter holiday was celebrated colorfully in the compound. Verses from the Bible were read and a drama was wonderfully staged in the beautifully decorated multi purpose hall. Pastor Peter shared from the Word of God explaining the true meaning of Easter. On the morning of May 1, 2005, Easter gifts of t-shirts and canvas shoes were handed out to the children. Delight radiated on the faces of the children through out the day.

The quarter also began with the distribution of 3,960 exercise books, 1,320 pens and 1,320 pencils. As one of the extra curricular activities, the language, drama and music clubs presented short dialogues, plays and music during the question and answer program and the Easter holiday. The Anti HIV/AIDS club conducted awareness creation on

HIV/AIDS. The environmental club cleared weeds from the school garden and watered the plants. The Agriculture Bureau gave 300 seedlings and these were planted in the school compound. In an academic competition between schools, grade five and six students took first place, grade eight second and grade seven third places. Students who scored excellent results in the intra school contests were awarded. Recognizing our valuable operation in Gambella, the national television had a 40-minute special on our activities in the city.

Community Based Child Care

The community-based childcare project embraced 125 children of which 74 were female. The project provided full care and schooling supplies to the children. During the Easter holiday celebration, gifts of t-shirts and canvas shoes were also distributed to the children. The gifts and the special merriments were donated by South Valley Christian Church that has been sponsoring the children. A drama about the resurrection of Jesus Christ was staged at the Multi-Purpose Hall. An interesting aspect of the celebration was the delivery of two chickens from the South Valley Christian Church to each child as a means of additional income or nutrition from the eggs.

Day Care and Feeding Center

The four daycare centers located in different districts of the town assisted a total of 160 children with ages ranging from 4 to 6. With the exception of the Baro Akobo day care and feeding center all functioned efficiently. The Baro Akobo center had been thoroughly damaged due to a fire that accidentally started in the area. No injuries resulted in our children. It was reconstructed right away and started operation. The centers provided formal and non-formal education to a child population that was abandoned.

HOPE Vocational Training and High School Construction

The bill of quantities for this project was completed. This set the way for a competitive bid that is planned to take place in September after the rains. We had undertaken the short-listing of contractors based on certain criteria and advertising in Addis Ababa and in the State.

The Assosa Area Project

A wonderful development that occurred in this quarter was the granting of 41,975 square meters of land to our project by the regional government without tax and payment. We had ascertained the ownership of the land through a title deed. The fencing of the property started right after. The short-listing of contractors to build the elementary school will be undertaken during the summer.

Family Based Childcare

A total of 50 (21male & 29 female) children continued their education successfully. Nutritious meals were provided twice a day to improve the health condition of the

children. A monthly allowance of birr 40.00 was disbursed to parents of the beneficiaries. Parent's day was celebrated decoratively with an award ceremony and discussion with the parents.

Recruitment of beneficiaries of the coming academic year was conducted with the active involvement of the Kebelle officials, community members and HOPE social workers. Hence, 50 recruits were selected and their names posted in community bulletins of the public to approve the selection. Moreover homes of the selected children were visited to ensure that they were from a destitute background. After the consent of the public, the children's photos, identity forms and other formalities were completed. 40 of the selected children were from the indigenous people group.

HOPE Pre-school

After their final class tests all were promoted from nursery to kindergarten. This meant that the area project had to plan for the necessary furniture and supplies of the kindergarten. The area project will continue to use the same rented quarter pending the construction of our school in the granted land.

HOPE School, Assosa

Preparations were underway to start the process of the pre-qualification of the construction of the HOPE Elementary School Assosa following the official grant of the land of our operations there. In the meantime preparations were underway to fence our holding with metal poles being prepared by our shops here in Addis Ababa.

Rift Valley Area Project

The Roggie Child Care and Training Center

Roggie childcare and training center assisted 50 children with the full sponsorship of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church of California. 29 of these were girls. Just within a couple of months, the KG teacher had already taught the kids several songs, numbers, and part of the alphabet. The teacher also reported that each day the children were eager to learn more. The temporary one-room schoolhouse with wood frame and corrugated tin roof was handy for all that took place. Although the area project was located in one of the poorest areas with no running water or power supply, the project functioned well as a rural school under the leadership of an enthusiastic teacher. The school lunch did wonders to the children that had a hard time even getting one square meal a day. The whole development to this poor community was God sent as the needs of otherwise marginalized children were being met in an all rounded way.

The Hirara Child Care and Training Center

In the Hirara childcare and training center, 50 children were supported by South Valley Christian Church. More than half of the beneficiaries were girls. All the children attended

nursery class with enthusiasm. With careful instruction and frequent follow-ups the students identified and wrote alphabets in English and Oromigna and were engaged in numerancy.

The preparation of the recruitment of the second batch of beneficiaries was completed. A letter to the Farmers Association was sent inviting it to participate in the recruitment process. In order to begin the service of providing lunch, contract bid had been issued to the public.

III. The HOPE University College

The President, Dr. Minas Hiruy, has been following up the development on the college. April could be marked as a month of breakthroughs in this regard.. Following Dr. Minas' persistent follow up, the request for land was positively answered by the Lease Board with the Board's decision on April 14, 2005 to grant HOPE five hectares or 12.35 acres of land for the construction of the HOPE University College. The only change from our proposal was that the Board would rather have us the land in three other locations other than that we proposed and that the allotment was reduced to five hectares from the 8.9 hectares that we requested. It was told to us that our proposed site had a number of other institutions of higher learning and that given a growing number of requests of space, five hectares was the highest that the city government could offer to us. Realizing the Board's firmness in this regard, the head of the cited authority told us that we could choose anyone of the three cites and that the title deed could be offered to HOPE following HOPE's confirmation.

The President and the Executive Director, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, guided by an official from the Lease Department, visited the three sites in Kolfe, Mekanissa and Akaki districts. The sites in Kolfe and Akaki were not suitable at all. But that in Mekanissa was very ideal being situated next to a new residential development west of the Ring Road and being three kilometers away from our main campus in Addis Ababa. Our Chairman of the Board, Mr. Negash Kebede, subsequently saw the site and after getting his approval, we went ahead and informed the official to draw the title deed using that site. The official in turn got a clearance from the Nefas Silk Lafto sub city about the land not being occupied by others. Based on this clearance the work on the title deed began

While in Holland for a conference on job and income, the President stayed behind and touched base with a number of interested companies about the HOPE University College. Two interest groups with one focusing on the construction and the other on the curriculum of the college were set up under the leadership of Woord & Daad to advice on development in both areas. The construction group had a number of companies with a lot of expertise not just on construction but also energy and environmental concerns. The curriculum group included experts from a known university and was to advise us on curriculum concerns and on how to weave value education to the curriculum. Many of the members in both groups planned to visit Ethiopia during the summer months. Furthermore, with the grant of the land, the owner of Geluk Treurniet Architecten and the architect of the same firm planned to come in July to set up the production unit of the

detailed building plans based on their scrutiny of the actual site. The President promoted the HOPE University College among a number of actual and potential donors in Holland. He spoke at a dinner gathering to businessmen in an old castle. Then he made a trip to BOK, a group of business people in a town along the North Sea coast called Katwijk. The group is interested to help finance the construction of the College.

After his return, much of his time was spent on the follow up of the grant of the title deed for the college. When he finally managed to get the title deed drawn up, he was informed that if HOPE was to get the land free of lease, at best the title deed would have to be named jointly in the names of the government agency under whom HOPE worked and HOPE itself. When HOPE objected to such joint ownership, the President was told that the only alternative that HOPE had was to apply for the leasing of the land at the minimum possible rate. The President was advised that the minimum possible rate was almost a giveaway amidst rising lease rates in Addis Ababa and that the leasing would give HOPE exclusive rights for at least 90 years. He was also told that HOPE would only have to make a down payment of ten percent and the rest could be paid in twenty years with bank interest. After consulting about this with the Board and getting the Board's go-ahead, we applied to the lease option and the Lease Board subsequently endorsed our application on June 14.

Respectfully Submitted,

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