



Ethiopian Education Fund

Newsletter | Spring/Summer 2020

Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

Thank you once again for your support of EEF. We are making a difference in the lives of each and every student...and the lives of their family.

COVID19 has affected Ethiopia just like the United States and other countries. Schools and businesses have closed, government workers are working from home, and social distancing policies have been enacted. All students, including EEF-supported students, are spending time at home helping with chores and hopefully studying.

Support from EEF helps these students and their families get through this time of hardship. Just like in the US, the Ethiopian economy is expected to enter a recession and small businesses and shops are struggling. Your support enables families to stay healthy and students to return to their education once the threat of COVID19 ends. And it is appreciated. One university student recently emailed the EEF Board to ask about our own health: "I want to know your health condition. God bless you all; we are praying for the whole world."



On other fronts, EEF has been able to expand its support to children in need through a local government program that helps destitute children and families in extreme poverty. Our partnership with the local community has helped us engage the Women & Children's Affairs Dept and learn of the good work they are doing. For two years in a row we have given them grants to support their program helping children in need throughout the area. This is an existing program that EEF supports by providing "budgetary supplement" to their program. We were very impressed with their program and the fact that members of the department had been contributing their own personal funds. The program provides books, pens, school clothing and even food to enable children in grades 1-4 attend school.

Given the success of this program, we expanded to the nearby larger town of Bonga for the same purpose: reach the most at-risk kids possible through an existing program. Tsegaye, a former EEF student who graduated in Social Work and now is a member of the Bonga office, encouraged us to provide support. Your donations have enabled children on the edge of survival to receive uniforms, supplies, and attend school.



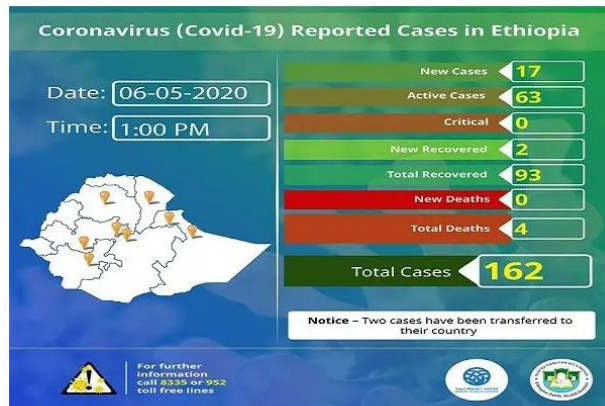
Board of Directors: Stephanie Garlichs, Jeffrey Ried, Annie Clay, Rochelle Stowe

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COVID19 and Ethiopia

As of 6 May, Ethiopia had few cases of COVID19 (162) and very few deaths (4). The Ethiopian Government took early and swift action to close schools, colleges, and universities; promote social distancing; restrict entry to the country by foreigners; and require non-essential government employees to work from home. However, we are concerned because the Ethiopian culture is built on regularly visiting your relatives, frequently buying food and supplies from small shops, and generally hanging out with one's friends. All of this means lots of interactions between lots of people.



Ethiopia Coronavirus update on May 6. Infographics : MoH

in order to ensure the country has enough food in the fall. We hope the Government acted quickly enough to contain this potentially devastating disease.

Fundraising this summer

While this is a time of hardship for all of us as we find our way through the pandemic, should circumstances allow, please consider a donation to the EEF knowing that when Ethiopia emerges from its own lockdown, students will go back to school and we will be there to support them. Donations can be made by going to www.ethiopianeducationfund.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. A subscription of \$30 per month (\$360 per year) supports a student in grade school and her family; \$40 per month (\$480 per year) supports a college or university student. Every donation reaches students who are inspired by your support and who desperately want to succeed. You can also send checks to the address at the bottom of the page. And contact us to order our fresh roasted Ethiopian coffee from Olympic Crest in Olympia!



Because of COVID19, we cannot yet plan fundraisers for this summer. Should the situation change and we can safely host coffee roasting, desserts, and wine events, we will let you know! Check our website for updates. We hope that you, your friends, and family stay healthy, safe, and positive (in a good way).

All the best from the EEF Board,

Annie, Jeff, Stephanie and Rochelle

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