



Ethiopian Education Fund

Newsletter | Fall/Winter 2020

Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

We hope this finds you, your family, and friends all well and able to provide and receive support in this difficult time. Like all things, we don't know where this journey will end, but we do know we are travelling together. Your support of students in Ethiopia has enabled your journey and their journey to come together. It is our hope that EEF newsletters give you a sense of that shared journey, its struggles, its joys, and its life. We are so grateful to each of you for remembering the students of EEF, as they are grateful, too!



It has been a difficult year for Ethiopia in many ways. Students were sent home from public schools, colleges, and universities last spring because of COVID. Thanks to you, all the EEF students have been supported even though they have not been able to attend school. We do this because the impact of EEF goes beyond a single student. Our efforts support families and help show that it is worthwhile to have children receive an education, especially girls. Even though COVID changed the situation dramatically, we want all students to know that the EEF is there for them as long as they pass their grade even if that takes an extra year due to unusual circumstances. That is why your support is so vital.

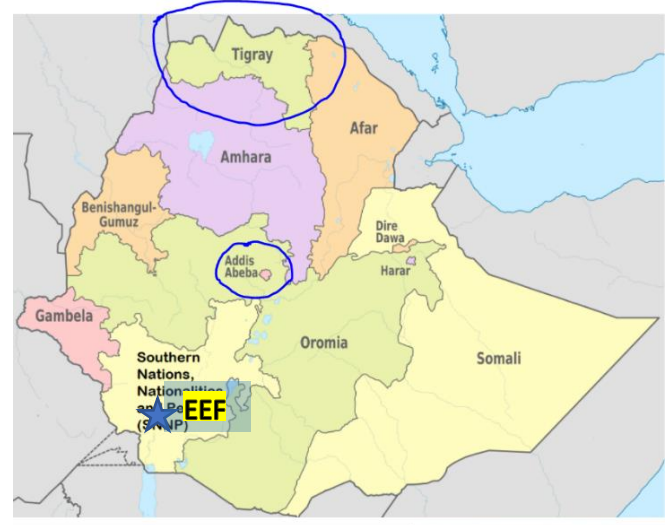
School is now starting up again so the scramble has begun for students to move back to the universities, colleges, and vocational tech schools. The primary and secondary students will begin once again to attend schools near their homes. Let us hope this will bring an element of normalcy, predictability, and hope to all of Ethiopia for the present and the future.

Looking ahead, the EEF continues to make a difference in the lives of so many young people. Students like Abiot, Adugna and Simegn who will be graduating 12th grade this year and attending college or university. Asegedech and Meselech will graduate college with employable skills. And primary and secondary school students will be pursuing their dreams even at a young age.

Current situation in Ethiopia

Let us state up front that Ethiopia is struggling: COVID, the postponed elections, ethnic violence, Trump encouraging Egypt to attack Ethiopia's GERD dam, and the recent fighting between federal troops and local troops in the breakaway regional state of Tigray. All have created a chilling effect on what the future might bring.

We also know that Ethiopia is resilient. Ethiopia has been able to control COVID well. The postponed election will likely be held in May or June 2021, which allows parties enough time to campaign. The GERD dam has met its goals for filling the reservoir this year



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

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and provided safety from flooding for people in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. The situation in Tigray is the culmination of a series of missteps, missed opportunities, and reluctance to share power and economic opportunity that started decades ago on all sides. For now, the fighting is contained within Tigray.

We are looking for signs of hope. We must see if fighting ends in Tigray or at least does not spread to other parts of Ethiopia, that an official date for the election is announced, and that food security needs are met with a bountiful harvest in November, December, and January.

Your donation matters...one student at a time

Ethiopia is now opening education facilities slowly. All primary and secondary students were automatically passed to the next grade, which is a relief to many. Last spring's 12th graders are now taking review classes and will take their 12th grade leaving exam before the end of this year. There are lots of changes and we are tracking for each and every one of our 40 students. Your continued support enables the EEF to provide as-needed support in times of crises and in times of normalcy to ensure that every student taking their 8th or 12th grade exam is prepared to do their very best.



We are grateful to our many monthly donors. Your regular support helps ensure the EEF can always support students who pass their grade, that we are always there for them.

As we enter the Holiday Season, consider making a gift to EEF on behalf of someone who you know that would appreciate empowering girls and boys, young women and men, to do their best. Please remember it is easy to donate at www.ethiopianeducationfund.org. And \$30 per month supports a student in grade school and her family; \$40 per month supports a college or university student. Every donation goes directly to students. Donate online or have your bank pay directly to the EEF through bill-pay to the address at the bottom of the page. Your support enables the Ethiopian Education Fund to fulfill our motto of "One More Year" of education to students in Ethiopia. Thank you!



All the best from the EEF Board,

Stephanie, Annie, Jeff and Rochelle

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