



ETHIOPIAID

Impact Report 2025





From the CEO

In 2025, your generosity allowed us to support our local partners in Ethiopia at similar levels to the previous year, even with economic challenges here at home.

Our partners in Ethiopia faced even greater challenges. I'm continually inspired by their tireless efforts to reach and uplift the most vulnerable members of their communities despite political instability, conflict and inflation.

This year, we began shaping our next five-year global strategy. With it comes an exciting shift, one that builds on our existing work while strengthening sustainable outcomes through capacity building, deeper partnerships and greater flexibility. Your support helps us respond to the realities on the ground, providing essential emergency relief when it's needed most.

Our second Peer Partner Exchange, a two-day capacity building workshop, brought our partners together in Addis Ababa in October 2025 to learn from one another and strengthen the bonds that are so essential to their work.

While many of our projects have set timeframes, our partner's presence on the ground doesn't end there - their teams continue to return, revisit and build on this work. It's these relationships within their communities that helps to create change built to last generations.

JeCCDO's Women Self-Help Group approach is an excellent example, now embraced and replicated by organisations across Ethiopia, with thousands of women's groups working together for change.

Another is APDA's ongoing work in Afar, drawing on community and religious leaders to gently shift cultural norms around harmful traditional practices through education. In the most entrenched communities, this can take a decade and in others, just a year or two. Every step, however long the road, is worthwhile progress.

And of course, the way in which our partners work together to enhance maternal health has improved maternal mortality and reduced fistula injuries in their communities.

In this report, we highlight the lasting impact your donations have made. Your continued commitment is transforming thousands of lives in Ethiopia.



Sharon Elliot
CEO Australia & Canada



From the Board of Directors

This year global political and economic instability shaped how we operate in Australia and Canada, while creating significant challenges for our partners in Ethiopia. Through collaboration and shared learning, we've been able to expand our efforts together.

Ethiopiaid's CEOs have worked closely with Board Chairs across the UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia to strengthen our work, build on our safeguarding policies and meet the needs of our local partners in Ethiopia. As a result, Australia will move to a calendar year funding and reporting model from 2026.

It's been exciting to shape our next five-year plan, guided by our local partners and the needs of the Ethiopians they support. Peer Partner Exchange workshops, monitoring visits and ongoing conversations have given us invaluable insight, above all, on the need to stay agile to respond to changing circumstances.

None of this would be possible without our donors' generosity, including the extraordinary gift of those who have remembered Ethiopia in their will. This support allows us to fund long-term programs while also providing crucial support during emergencies.

Our Board members volunteer because they truly believe in the work our partners do. We would like to thank each and every donor, whose generosity continues to humble us.



Robert Macdonald
*Chair, Board of Directors,
Australia*



Stewart Kerr
*Chair, Board of Directors,
Canada*



Our Vision

An Ethiopia in which every person has access to quality education, healthcare and a life of dignity.

Our Mission

Breaking the cycle of poverty by enabling the most vulnerable people and their communities to live with dignity, to build resilience and achieve real and sustainable solutions to the challenges they face.

Working together for lasting change.

Ethiopiaid works towards ending poverty in Ethiopia by funding local, expert organisations who know their communities best. Rather than running projects ourselves, we support Ethiopian-led solutions that create lasting, meaningful change.

By funding their work, we help create lasting impact that is rooted in local knowledge and leadership, rather than external ideas that aren't fit for purpose. We connect donors with trusted local partners driving progress on the ground offering a direct, impactful way to support those who need it most across Ethiopia.

This direct and authentic connection is what sets us apart. As a non-political, non-religious charity, we are able to reach the most vulnerable people without barriers or exclusion.

9560

supporters in Australia

935

supporters in Canada

8

project partners
working in Ethiopia

7

Ethiopiaid team members
(2 full time, and 5 part-time)



Financial snapshot

From here on out, Ethiopiaaid Australia will be reporting based on calendar year instead of financial year, matching up with our Canadian counterparts. As a result, this reporting incorporates the second half of 2025 for Ethiopiaaid Australia, and the entire calendar year for Ethiopiaaid Canada. We greatly appreciate the support of all our donors across the globe, raising \$1,328,157 across the two different reporting periods. Figures are displayed in AUD unless otherwise stated.

Single Donations	\$791,206
Monthly Gifts	\$156,000
Grants	\$170,000
Bequests	\$210,451
Total Income	\$1,328,157

Payments to Project Partners – Ethiopiaaid Australia (1st July – 31st December 2025)

JeCCDO	\$50,000
Yenege Tesfa	\$100,000
APDA`	\$167,500
The Eparchy of Embibir	\$5,850

Payments to Project Partners – Ethiopiaaid Canada (1st January – 31st December 2025)

Cheshire Services	\$71,771
Hope of Light	\$30,000
APDA`	\$28,791

To see our audited accounts in full, visit our website: ethiopiaid.org.au/how-your-donation-is-used



Harmful traditional practices

Ending Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage in Ethiopia.

Harmful traditions such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage persist across parts of Ethiopia. Although both are illegal, they remain deeply entrenched, especially in remote, rural communities like Afar.

An estimated 58% of Ethiopian women aged 15-49 have undergone FGM, though prevalence among girls aged 14 and under has fallen significantly, signalling generational change. Regional rates still vary widely, with Afar among the highest. Many people wrongly believe FGM is a religious requirement, while survivors face lifelong physical and psychological harm.

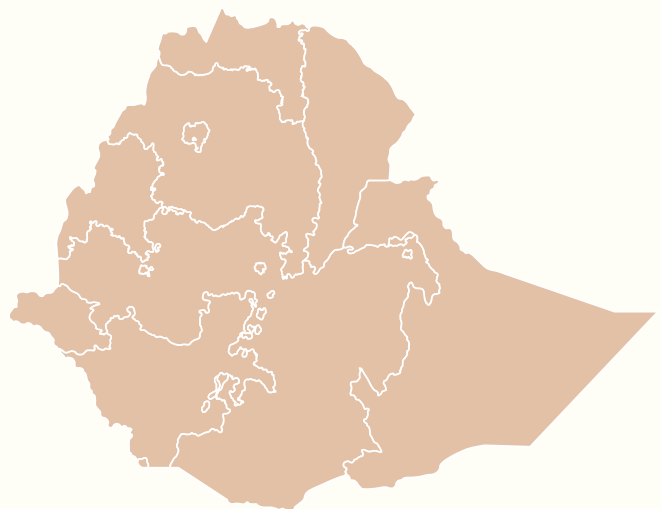
Child marriage is also declining but remains widespread. Around 32% of women aged 20-24 are married before 18, down from 40% in 2016. Girls in rural areas and those with less education face the greatest risk of both practices, a result of poverty, social pressure, and limited access to schooling.

"Being culturally deep rooted in the Afar society, harmful traditional practices cannot stop in the short-term. Leaving the communities now would open the door to returning to traditional practices. Ethiopiaid continues to walk through this very challenging process of enabling change with us."

Valerie Browning, APDA

The work you support

- Training Women Extension Workers to support maternal and reproductive health
- Young Leader Workshops
- Training Traditional Birth Attendants
- Clan Leader Conferences
- Community education and awareness campaigns
- Literacy classes in rural areas
- Educating rural teachers
- Livestock provision, training and veterinary assistance
- Emergency aid and disaster relief



- Dagaba
- Gawaani
- Kori
- Magaale
- Erebt

Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Forced marriage is often an economic survival strategy. Eysa Hamad, a widowed mother of six, lives in a pastoralist settlement in Ethiopia's Afar Region, 220 kilometers from the nearest road. Her Eritrean husband died after their youngest child was born, leaving Eysa as sole provider. Drought cut her herd from 50 goats to just 15, and the only camel nearly died.

With no health services nearby and relief a week-long walk away, Eysa married her eldest daughter to an older man for support. Yet her son-in-law found no work, and food aid from Assa'ita stopped. APDA's health team treated Eysa's children for measles and severe malnutrition, easing the immediate crisis. This story highlights how these dangerous traditional practices are often reinforced by poverty, with a holistic approach to poverty alleviation alongside education about these practices the best combination for the reduction of rates within rural communities.

This is just a starting point for APDA. Breaking the cycle that perpetuates harmful practices includes educating communities, providing health care support and easing the pressures behind forced marriage. APDA runs programs that build literacy, educate communities, improve livelihoods, support maternal and reproductive health and reduces food insecurity.

Your support helps to reach remote and nomadic communities and transform lives in one of the world's poorest regions.

Local Partner

Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA)

Global Sustainable Development Goals



Transformational Outcomes

274

women extension workers train traditional birth attendants to abandon six harmful traditional practices.

174

mobile health workers providing a range of support, including maternal health to offset FGM.

8136

learners receive literacy and numeracy instruction, almost half of them female through mobile teachers.



Fistula & maternal health

Preventing avoidable maternal and newborn deaths and eliminating obstetric fistula.

For many mothers in Ethiopia, pregnancy and childbirth is dangerous. Fewer than half of all births are attended by a skilled health professional, often far from help.

Ethiopia's maternal mortality rate, 195 deaths per 100,000 births, reflects hard-won progress. Yet in Afar, mothers still face far greater risk.

Sometimes, complications during labour leave women with obstetric fistula, a preventable injury causing chronic incontinence and lasting nerve and muscle damage. Each year, an estimated 9,000 Ethiopian women live through this, yet only around 1,200 receive treatment annually.

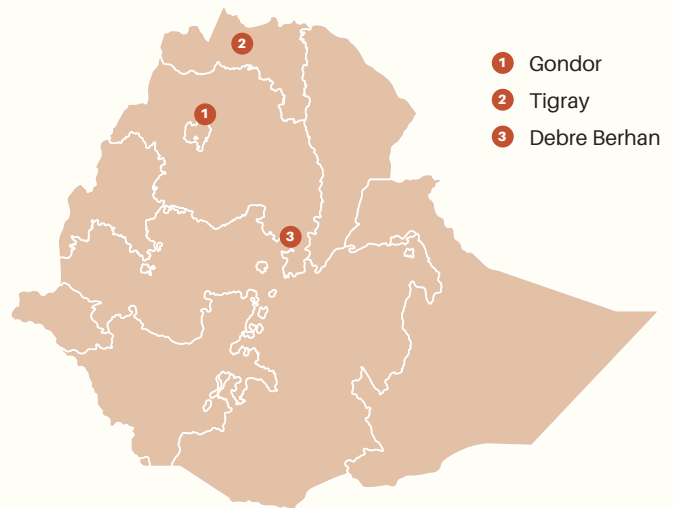
Beyond the physical pain lies a quieter sorrow. Many are turned away by husbands and communities, told they are cursed, and left to face shame and grief alone, losing the sense of belonging they once knew.

A lack of access to healthcare, remote terrain, malnutrition, and traditions like child marriage are just a few reasons.

In truth, a lot of women simply don't know that healing is possible.

"Women who are cured from obstetric fistula cry from happiness. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a woman suffering receive necessary treatment."

Dr Ambaye, Hope of Light



The work you support

- Rural outreach for safe pregnancy awareness, including educating male family members about fistula
- Ante natal appointments in communities
- Training for Safe Motherhood Ambassadors to educate communities
- Identifying and transporting fistula patients
- Accommodating women prior to childbirth near medical clinics
- Fistula repair surgery
- Psychological care and skill development post-surgery
- Training for medical professionals on antenatal care to prevent fistula, and pre- and post-operational care



Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Muna lived with obstetric fistula for four years, hiding whenever visitors came over. After treatment at a regional hospital and then in Addis Ababa, she connected with a Safe Motherhood Ambassador who introduced her to Healing Hands of Joy. There, she received both physical care and vital emotional support, including training that taught her to forgive those who had once rejected her. "They taught us that the people that rejected us in the past simply didn't know better," Muna says. That training helped her process the cruel comments.

Today, Muna is a Safe Motherhood Ambassador, having helped many women give birth safely in a hospital. "I am very happy to be a SMA," she says. "I haven't stopped teaching since my stay with Healing Hands of Joy."

Thanks to supporters like you, meaningful progress has been made over the last twenty years in Ethiopia. Through education, identification and treatment, our local partners have improved maternal health outcomes and reduced obstetric fistula in the communities they serve, a hopeful sign of what continued support can achieve.

Yet the work doesn't stop there. Many fistula survivors receive livestock or join skills workshops to help them earn a livelihood, empowering their own independence. Others train as Safe Motherhood Ambassadors, becoming leaders and champions of change in their own communities.

Local Partner

Healing Hands of Joy

Hope of Light

Afar Pastoralist Development Association

Global Sustainable Development Goals



Transformational Outcomes

87%

of pregnant women in program communities had 3 ante natal appointments

380

women identified and referred for specialist medical care

500

young people educated to make informed decisions about community health and wellbeing

Child trafficking

Protecting vulnerable and orphaned children in Ethiopia from trafficking, abuse and exploitation.

Ethiopia has some of the highest orphan rates in the world, home to an estimated 5.6 million orphaned children. Many face precarious futures, without stable homes, consistent schooling or family support to fall back on.

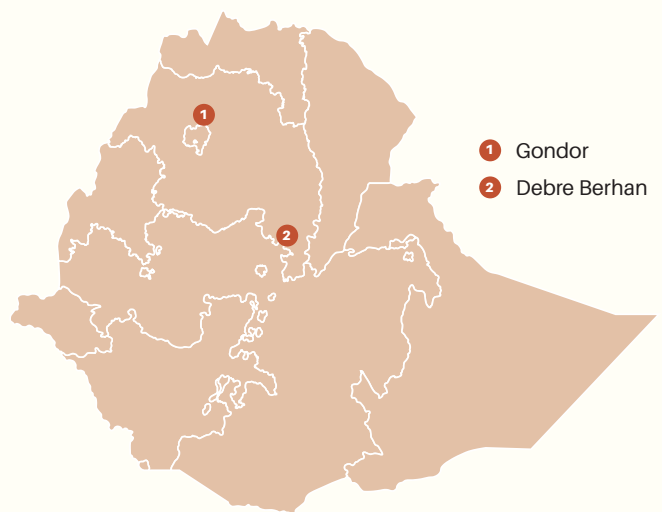
Many children in Ethiopia, particularly those living on the streets or unable to stay in school, are left vulnerable to exploitation and mistreatment, a risk that ongoing economic and political instability continues to deepen.

The country faces one of the highest rates of child slavery in the world, with thousands of children, some as young as 10, sold by their own parents each year.

Child marriage remains widespread too. Around 40% of young women are married before turning 18, rising to as many as two in three girls in the hardest-hit regions like Afar. Compounding these risks, birth registration remains one of the lowest in the world. This leaves many children without the protection that this simple record provides and significantly increases their vulnerability to mistreatment, exploitation and slavery.

The work you support

- Providing education to disadvantaged children
- Improved sanitation and hygiene knowledge
- Supporting single mothers in business literacy, income generation, and business startups so they can provide for their families
- Providing safe spaces and food support for children living on the street
- Supporting girls to continue their education in high school
- Reunification of trafficked children
- Providing a home for children with nowhere else to go



Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Safe homes are the foundation of a better life for orphaned children. The ability to learn and grow in a trusted and consistent environment allows those who would never have had the opportunity to strive for something greater. Supporting young people to continue their education, develop into young adults and reach their potential is something that Mulageta Gebru sees as a real privilege.

Yenege Tesfa and JeCCDO's work is deeply embedded within the communities they serve, depending on collaboration between local partners, families and community leaders. Together, they provide vulnerable children with sanctuary, protecting them from harm and offering hope for a brighter future.

Education is essential for breaking this cycle, for children, community leaders and parents alike. By helping communities understand the risks of trafficking and exploitation, and equipping families to protect their children, this work builds a stronger, more informed line of defence for the future.

"Over the years, I have observed many children who attended our childcare center grow and develop both mentally and emotionally. It is truly inspiring to see them thrive and move on to join various local and international organizations, where they have taken on significant roles and responsibilities."

Mulageta Gebru, CEO JeCCDO

Local Partner

Yenege Tesfa (Hope for Tomorrow)
Jerusalem Children & Community Development (JeCCDO)

Global Sustainable Development Goals



Transformational Outcomes

84

children provided not just a home across six group homes, but safety, education and a childhood

50

sponsored girls progressed to the next year of education, four accepting university placements and one graduating

945

members of community groups trained in child rights, referral linkages, identification and reporting



Gender inequality

Providing equal education and earning opportunities so women and girls can reach their full potential.

Gender inequality begins at birth in Ethiopia. Only 56% of girls complete primary school and 16% reach secondary education, with rural rates lower still. Two in five girls miss school each month because they lack menstrual hygiene resources.

As girls grow older, risks intensify with UN Women studies finding high numbers of Ethiopian women experience physical or sexual violence from a partner, and 17% of girls say their first sexual experience was forced. Fewer than 2% of survivors report abuse to police, reflecting deep-rooted norms that excuse this violence.

These barriers trap women and girls in cycles of poverty that pass to the next generation. Changing societal norms relating to gender-based violence, building financial independence and keeping girls in school are crucial for gender equality in Ethiopia.

"Education materials reduce dropout rates, improve classroom participation, and boost the students' self-esteem and motivation to learn."

Hailu Gebeyehu, GM Yenege Tesfa

"Growth and Change booklets and Menstrual Pad Kits reduce absenteeism among schoolgirls, promoting safe hygiene practices, and lessening reliance on unsafe alternatives in a fragile post conflict Ethiopia."

Zenawi Zerihun, Project Manager Dignity Period

The work you support

- Building income generation skills and financial literacy, paired with start-up capital, tools or equipment.
- Supporting the education of disadvantaged girls
- Educating about menstrual hygiene and providing reusable sanitary pads
- Research on the impact of heavy bleeding on anemia
- Building sustainable social and economic capacity through women's Self Help and Economic Empowerment groups to



Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Habtamu, a single mother of two from a village outside of Gondar, struggled to farm her small plot after her husband's death, leaving her family in hardship. Everything changed when Habtamu participated in an agricultural training program. An active learner, she received five vegetable seed varieties, cabbage, lettuce, carrot, beetroot, and spinach, along with hand tools and a watering can.

Applying her new skills, Habtamu prepared seed beds and planted immediately. Within three months, she harvested enough vegetables to feed her family and sell the surplus. She opened her first ever bank account, saving one third and using the rest for her children's schooling and household needs. "Our lives have been getting better and better since we started producing vegetables," Habtamu says. "My children and I are happy now."

Your support helps our partners in Ethiopia tackle the root causes of inequality directly. Supporting livelihoods for single mothers, keeping girls in school, tackling period poverty, building financial independence, addressing gender-based violence, and running school gender clubs. When a woman gains health, education and income, she reinvests it in her family and her whole community thrives with her.

Local Partner

Yenege Tesfa (Hope for Tomorrow)

Jerusalem Children & Community
Development Organisation

For-Ethiopia

Dignity Period

Global Sustainable Development Goals



Transformational Outcomes

13,867

boys and girls educated on menstrual health, with 7292 schoolgirls provided with menstrual pads

224

marginalised women joined Self-Help Groups and 180 Economic Empowerment Group

235

single mother farmers were assisted, significantly improving food security and dietary diversity

Palliative care

Strengthening end-of-life support so those with a terminal illness can live their final days with peace and dignity.

Hospice and palliative care are still emerging in Ethiopia. Awareness is low and services are scarce outside major cities. Most people with terminal illness spend their final days in pain, confusion and isolation.

Cancer and chronic diseases are rising, and five-year survival outcomes are poor as people present late and have few treatment options.

An estimated 500,000 Ethiopians currently need palliative care, and over 95% have no access. A 2025 review found palliative care use is just 42% for those treated at major hospitals, and 10.6% for treatment at smaller centres.

Most cancer treatment is paid out of pocket, often forcing families in poverty to sell land, homes or wedding gold. Morphine access is extremely limited, and palliative care is neither publicly funded nor a routine part of medical training.

"Strengthening patient-centred care within the health system by emphasizing dignity, effective communication, and shared decision-making, particularly for patients who are dying in suffering without access to palliative care, is essential."

Ephrem Abathune, Executive Director Hospice Ethiopia

The work you support

- Pain management and symptom relief.
- At home palliative and hospice care, including the provision of medication, checkups, and counselling
- Training for family members on how to care for their loved one.
- Providing food and financial relief to those who have no income due to illness.
- Training medical professionals in palliative care
- Working with Ethiopian federal government to increase accessibility of palliative care.



Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Mintwab, 55, lives with her sister in Saris. Headaches and vision problems led to a diagnosis: a spreading brain tumour and fluid build-up in her abdomen. Surgery drained the fluid, but a ruptured artery left her semi-paralysed. Referred to Tikur Anbessa Hospital for radiotherapy, she needed palliative care at home while she waited, so she joined HE's home-based care program.

Nurses found her unconscious, hypertensive, unable to eat, and living with a bedsore. They treated her wounds, provided supplies, repositioned her regularly, and trained her sister to help. "I was lonely in supporting my sister before you came to see her. I was buying medications and was paying for wound care from the little money I had. Now you are doing it freely with dedication and happiness. I am grateful for your service and always thank you."

Your support funds work across three strategic pillars, for a service that Australians and Canadians take for granted. Patient and family care, food and financial relief provides immediate support. Training healthcare professionals and public and policy changes are necessary to help more Ethiopians.

As professionals gain these skills, hospitals and clinics get better at recognising when patients need palliative care and building pain relief into routine treatment, slowly strengthening support across the health system. Community awareness of why palliative care matters, and assists engagement with health authorities and policymakers for recognition and funding for services that can one day reach people across the country.

Local Partner

Hospice Ethiopia

Transformational Outcomes

410

patients received home-based palliative care services across Addis Ababa

184

patients received medical supplies - colostomy bags, adult diapers, gauze, normal saline etc.

108

patients received basic food supplies basic food supplies such as teff, lentils, and rice.



Living with disability

Aiding those who are often overlooked in society through increasing accessibility, providing aids and helping people overcome obstacles in day-to-day life.

With a myriad of issues facing people across the country, disability services are often neglected across Ethiopia. Despite this, we are committed to working on the most difficult issues, providing relief and hope for those with disabilities that have been pushed to the side.

Those with disabilities face significant challenges, including social stigma, limited access to healthcare and education, poor infrastructure and inadequate employment pathways.

Individuals with disabilities are also more likely to suffer from issues relating to poverty and housing, compounding their health struggles.

Additionally, families and communities are often not equipped to care for a disabled child, with limited government support and education.

Whether a disabled child or adult, all people wish is to live a life of dignity, security and peace.

Through supporting basic business and agricultural training, tailored to the needs of disabled individuals, we can help people regain independence and control over their own lives.

And through holistic rehabilitation, training and education, we are working towards a world where disabled individuals can reach their full potential and are supported and celebrated by their family and community.



"Being able to reach for those who need my help is a blessing."

Mengistu Tedla, Orthopaedic Workshop Supervisor, Cheshire Services.

The work you support

- Mobile outreach services.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation and physiotherapy services.
- Empowering children with developmental disabilities.
- Providing access to wheelchairs and other mobility aids.
- Educating parents and communities about disability-inclusive society.
- Helping those with disability to reach their educational goals.



Sustainable change is being achieved

Your impact

Abebe Getu is a young man who lives in the Becho Woreda village in the Oromia region. While Menagesha social workers were in the area for screening, Abebe was found to be one of the children with clubfoot in the region. He believes that he may have developed clubfoot due to his mother falling while fetching water in a river while she was pregnant with him. Abebe suffers from the social stigma and physical restrictions of clubfoot, being insulted by children at and outside of school, and being unable to play with the other children as much as he wishes to.

Abebe has received a full raft of medical services at the rehabilitation centre, including surgery and physiotherapy, alongside being provided with food, clothing and education at the facility. He now understands that through this treatment he can live a normal life and get back to playing with his friends and going to school like a normal kid. In the future, Abebe wishes to become a doctor and aid those in poverty with similar conditions that he has suffered through. "I hope that more children like me gets this opportunity", he said.

Your support funds work that is crucial for the sustainability of Ethiopia. Working to assist those with disabilities is a difficult long-term process, but one that has substantial benefit for the communities that people live in, and Ethiopian society more broadly. By helping those impacted by disabilities, we are supporting people to reclaim control over their own lives and become productive members of society.

Greater opportunity for those with disabilities leads to a better society. Increased education helps those without disabilities navigate the needs of others within their communities. Greater infrastructure and healthcare services help to treat and identify greater numbers of people efficiently. As more and more people are aided by this project, the effectiveness compounds.

Local Partner

Cheshire Services

Transformational Outcomes

2965

people gained independence through access to wheelchairs and mobility aids.

1000+

individuals are provided with access to assistive services.

800

children with disabilities supported in educational pursuits.

ETHIOPIA AID