

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



Annual Report 2023



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Look at the mother's joy as her daughter gains access to education.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): This report outlines the annual progress of ESD's programs from January to December 2023. Operating in Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, and SNNP, ESD actively engages through its programs, reaching various segments of the community and leaving a lasting impact on the lives of **41,916** individuals (**60% female**). **Our engagement places girls and women at the center of all our efforts.**

Child Development Program: ESD reached **27,024 (50% female)** community members through child-focused projects. Notably, **1,041 (50 % female)** disadvantaged children accessed to early childhood education, while 248 mothers from impoverished backgrounds formed self-help groups and participated in income-generating activities. These initiatives have led to improvements in healthcare, education, and living standards. In Dara Otilcho District, Sidama Region, the ESD's effort has positively impacted community members by collaboratively revising community bylaws to reduce instances of child marriage and child labor.

Education Program: Achieved its goal by reaching **11,977 (100% female)** community members. The focus on girls' education in Amhara's Siyadebir ena Wayu Woreda resulted in significant achievements. With the support of menstrual hygiene management training and the construction of girls' rooms, this intervention has significantly reduced absenteeism among female students..

Girls and Women Empowerment Program: ESD reached **2,065 (100 % female)** in Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia and SNNP regions, empowered married adolescent girls and women through saving and training in various areas. Success stories from Girls and Mothers from Self-Help Groups demonstrate increased skills, economic contributions, and leadership roles within the community.

Environment Protection and Renewable Energy Program: The Solar Learning Ethiopia project, a total of **446** youth underwent a ten months comprehensive training in solar technology and micro-entrepreneurship. The trained solar technicians have successfully organized themselves into solar enterprises, effectively distributing and installing small-scale solar systems in over **9,000** households. Furthermore, as a testament to the program's practical approach, 15 solar systems were strategically installed in health centers and educational institutions during the training process.

The Solar Learning Ethiopia Program, overseen by ESD, has significantly impacted more than **40,000** communities, with a notable **40%** representation of female participants. This initiative serves as a pioneering model, demonstrating pathways for youth empowerment, self-reliance, and environmental stewardship through the provision of tailored training for aspiring solar technicians and the establishment of sustainable enterprises.

To ensure the sustainability of the program, we engaged with government sector offices in every step of the project phase from the inception to final evaluation of the project. We also facilitated knowledge and experience sharing through the handover of relevant documents. Additionally, we provided ready-made training classrooms and competent teachers, further enhancing the program's sustainability.

Youth Skills Development and Job Creation Program: A cumulative count of **2,816** individuals, with a gender distribution of **50%** female, comprising unemployed and underemployed youth, have undergone vocational skill training and been successfully integrated into the job market through participation in four youth-centric initiatives located in the regions of Amhara and Sidama. All the projects are designed to impart practical skills to youth, promote entrepreneurial skill, and facilitate income generation activity.

Humanitarian Response Program: ESD supported with food and nonfood items including hygiene materials for **3200 (60 % female)** internally displaced needy people and also provided scholastic material and equipment for the conflict affected schools children and host community. Moreover, ESD conducted comprehensive assessment on the situation of IDPs focusing on girls' education to identify gaps, inform policies at national and regional levels and improve practices at grassroots levels.

Overall, the 2023 fiscal year highlights ESD's dedication to the community empowerment that have a positive impact on communities. As ESD continues to look ahead, the commitment to creating positive change remains unwavering.



WHO WE ARE

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a local development and humanitarian organization established in 2007 G.C. It was re-registered by the Federal Charities and Societies Agency in accordance with the 2009 CSO Proclamation No. 621/2009 and later under the Civil Society Agency Proclamation 1113/2019, with registration number 0259. It operates under a board-led governance structure with seven members from different professional backgrounds.



Jobir pre-primary school established by ESD at Sheno Oromiya Region.

OUR VISION

ESD aspires to see Ethiopia with **empowered communities**.

OUR MISSION

ESD'S mission is to create a **bright future for children, youth, and women** through integrated community development approaches.

OUR GOAL

To contribute to the national endeavor of empowering the children, girls, youth, and women communities to **be self-reliant**.

OUR VALUES



Meaningful Participation



Stakeholders Engagement



Cooperation



Integrity



Partnership



Gender Responsive



Innovation



Stewardship



Continuous Self-Assessment

HOW WE WORK

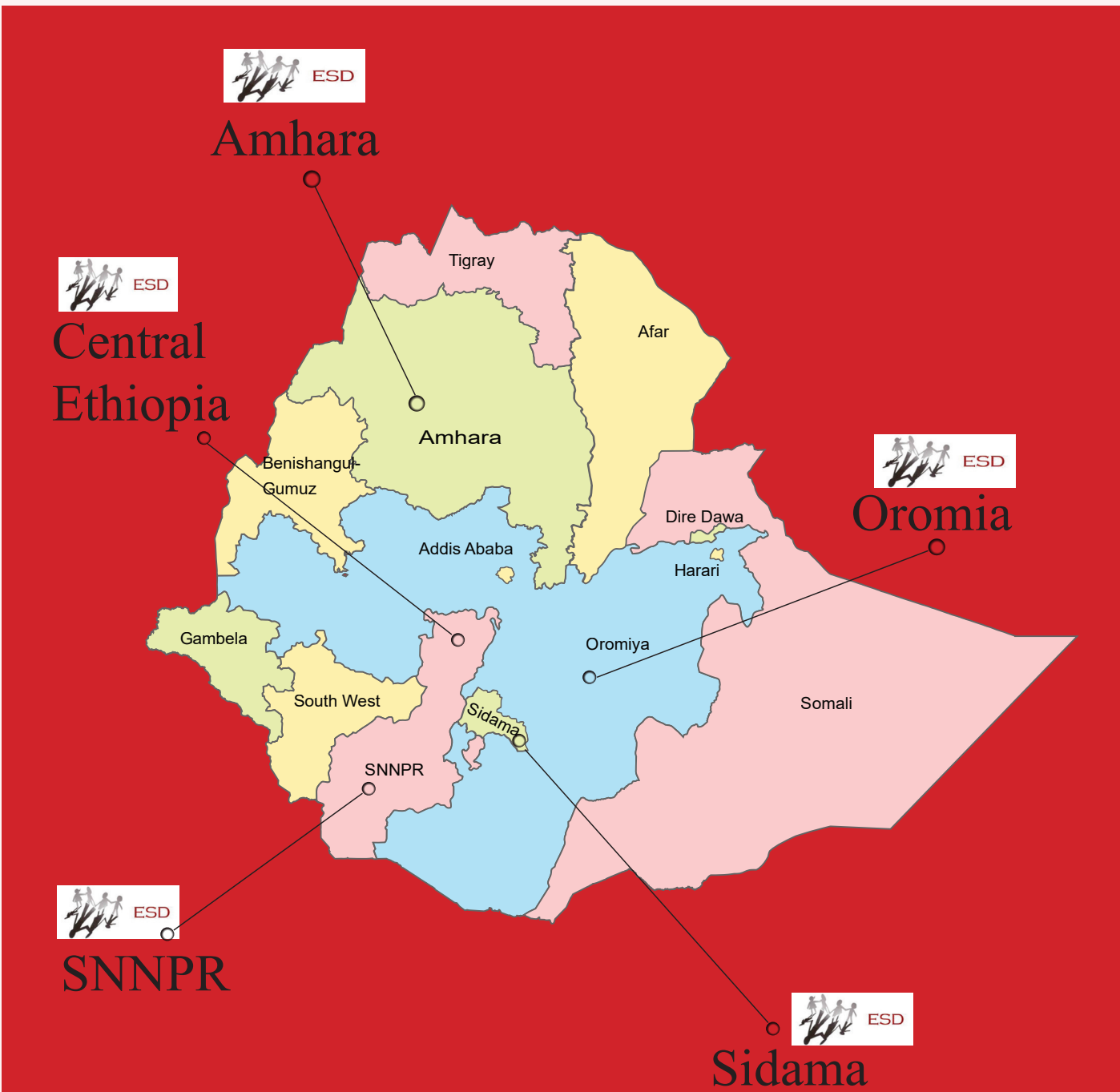
ESD plays an active role in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of marginalized groups, including children, girls, youth, and women, along with communities affected by disasters and conflicts, through Integrated Programs. This involves delivering essential aid and vital social services such as education, healthcare, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), child-friendly spaces, and protection. Additionally, ESD supports individuals in cultivating resilience through sustainable livelihoods, economic empowerment, and opportunities for skill development.



SHG makes her a profitable vegetable businesswoman.

WHERE WE CURRENTLY WORK

Currently, we are actively operational in five regional states (Amhara, Central Ethiopia, Oromia, Sidama and South Ethiopia). To reach these areas, we have two Program Coordination Offices (PCOs) located in Debre Berhan and Hawassa towns. Apart from our outreach offices, we have owned two well-furnished TVET centers in Debre Berhan and Hawassa towns. We also have a well-equipped educational resource center in Debre Berhan town.





Teaching a girl
brightens her
future.

FOREWORD



“Beyond the mountain of uncertainty and hardship lies the river of Hope”

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we present the annual report of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In the face of numerous challenges, both natural and man-made, our organization has remained steadfast in its commitment to creating positive change in the lives of our target groups in our society.

Throughout the year, ESD has continued to prioritize our efforts in the areas of child development, education, girls’ and women’s empowerment, youth vocational and entrepreneurial skills training, job creation, environmental protection, renewable energy, humanitarian response, and resilience building. These pillars form the foundation of our mission to foster sustainable development and improve the well-being of individuals and communities across the Regional States, Amhara, Sidama, Oromia, Southern and central Ethiopia

In a landscape marked by hardship, we have persevered in our pursuit of excellence, striving to innovate and adapt our programs to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. Through collaborative partnerships, tireless dedication, and the unwavering support of our donors and stakeholders, we have achieved significant milestones and made meaningful progress in advancing our core objectives.

This annual report serves as a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, board members, beneficiaries, and supporters who have contributed to our success. Within these pages, you will find stories of resilience, empowerment, and transformation that illustrate the profound impact of our work on individuals and communities across the regions we are operating.

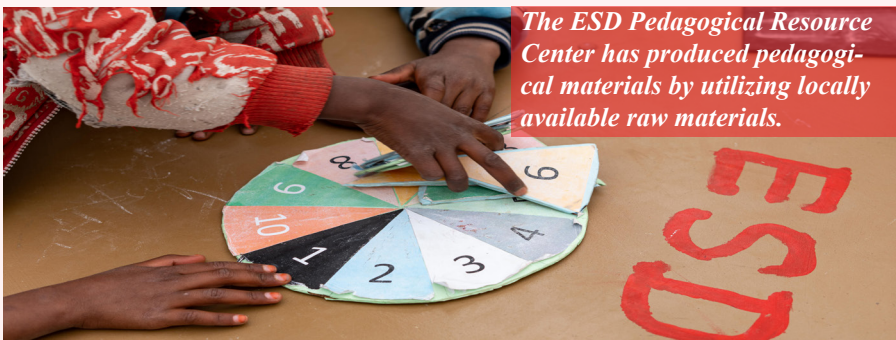
As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of catalysing positive changes and building a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow for all.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we continue to strive for a world where every child has the opportunity to thrive; every girl and woman can achieve her full potential; youth can have brighter future and every community is resilient in the face of adversity.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Amsale Mulugeta (Mrs)





The construction of classrooms marked a significant milestone.



"Thanks to the training, I have transformed into a confident girl."



Jara galalcha kebele Hawasa zurriya Sidama region Yididiya Vegetable farming.



"These items are instrumental in reducing school absenteeism caused by challenges with sanitary pads."



From daily laborer to horticulture business owner.



ESD's child development program has been working since the organization's establishment in various approaches, such as community-based and school-based centers, to promote early childhood education

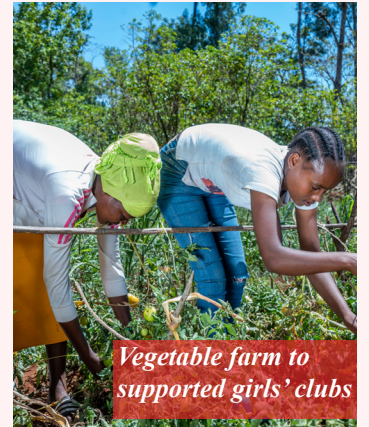


"Thanks to ESD's generous support with sewing materials and a Singer machine, we are now able to create pants and sanitary pads."

The utilization of pedagogical playing and learning materials crafted from locally available raw materials has yielded a notable positive impact on children's early child development.



"Previously, we were job Seekers and encountered challenges sustaining our livelihood."



Vegetable farm to supported girls' clubs



ESD's Birhan Training Center.

"Years ago, I faced unemployment and financial struggles. However, thanks to the garment making training provided by ESD, I have gained valuable skills and found employment opportunity."



2023-YEAR IN REVIEW



41,916

(60% female)

community members were reached during the 2023 fiscal year.



16,224

(70% female)

community members were made aware of child marriage and child labor.



412

(50% female)

children received school supplies.



480

(100% female)

school girls' club members received training on gender equality.



1,041

(50% female)

students received early childhood development education.



116

(40% female)

youth completed Level II solar photovoltaic technology curriculum.

2023-YEAR IN REVIEW



3

tea rooms were renovated and supported girls' clubs.



248

(100% female)

women were organized into self-help groups.



179

(50% female)

preschool children received clean water facility.



102

(40% female)

youth graduates have established nine enterprises.



27,024

(50% female)

community members were reached in child development program.



8

preschool learning classrooms were constructed.



WHAT WE DO
ESD's IMPACT IN 2023

Our Programs:

Our programs focus on six areas.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Child protection
- WASH
- Pedagogical Resource center development



EDUCATION

- Pre-primary, Primary education focusing on quality improvement
- Intercultural education
- ICT for education
- Girls' education



GIRLS' & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Gender Transformative Action
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Service
- Livelihood Enhancement
- Leadership Development



YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & JOB CREATION

- Entrepreneurship
- Technical and Vocational Training
- Leadership development
- Job creation and Employment



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Green livelihood
- Renewable Energy (Solar Energy, and Biogas Development)
- Climate Change & Resilience



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- Rehabilitation, Recovery and Resilience
- Life Saving and Dignity Kit
- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Education in emergency
- WASH, Nutrition, and Livelihood
- Protection



Jobir pre-primary school established by ESD at Sheno Oromiya Region.



PROGRAM
FOCUS

1

CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

Child Development

ESD has been implementing early childhood development program since the organization's establishment in various approaches, such as community-based and school-based centers, to promote early childhood education and empower women for a sustainable future. During the 2023 fiscal year, the organization reached 27,024 (50% female) community members in its child-focused program.

During the reporting period, 1041 (50% female) disadvantaged children accessed early childhood education through community-based and school-based ECDE centers. Enrollment rates saw a significant increase from 30.4% to 55.2%, showcasing the project's success in reaching preschool-age children.

The distribution and planting of seedlings have played a crucial role in fostering a more sustainable and eco-friendly environment. Significant progress has been made in promoting gardening and contributing to access to improved diets for families, as well as green practices in ECDE centers and SHG members' gardens.

The construction of eight classrooms marked a significant milestone, while the installation of a water point at the Odakoni community ECCE center provided clean water to 179 preschool children, transforming their daily lives. Handwashing facilities have been strategically placed across the centers to ensure a hygienic environment conducive to children's learning and growth.

Moreover, the organization has made efforts to reduce child labor and child marriage during the 2023 reporting period with aims to contribute to the national endeavor of reducing child labor exploitation and early marriage. As part of this initiative, a community bylaw has been developed, implemented, laying the foundation for transformative change. School teachers underwent comprehensive ToT sessions on Life Skills highlighting the vital role of communities in combating child labor and preventing early marriages.

Additionally, three tea rooms were renovated and equipped to provide essential services and generate income for girls' clubs. The project also facilitated providing 206 dozen exercise books and 1338 pens for 412 children in the academic year 2023/2024.

Partner schools successfully generated income of 17,719 Birr through various activities such as horticulture production, tearoom services, and coupon sales contributing to the sustainability of the project's initiative.



ESD's pre-primary classroom construction transformation.

Revolutionizing Early Childhood

About a year ago, the Government Primary School in Sheno North Shoa, Oromia region, faced numerous challenges. The classrooms were substandard and uncomfortable for children, lacking both indoor and outdoor playing materials. This lack of pedagogical resources made it difficult for children to learn effectively.

In 2023, ESD implemented the Integrated ECDE and Community livelihood interventions under the project called 'Edget' program in Sheno town, North Shoa, Oromia region. Our intervention brought about significant changes. We constructed new classrooms, provided floor mats, clean drinking water, and washroom facilities. We also ensured that there were ample indoor and outdoor playing and learning materials available for the students and worked with the local community to establish the Jobir community-based preprimary school.

Thanks to collaborative efforts, 226 (50% female) students now have access to quality preprimary education at Jobir School. The academic performance of these children has improved significantly. **Parents are grateful for the changes and eagerly send their children to school. Tirinigo Alemu, a mother of a four-year-old girl, expressed her gratitude by saying: "We used to be discouraged from sending our children far away from home. However, thanks to this intervention, we now have a school nearby that provides excellent service for learning and playing. My daughter is excited to attend school even on weekends because she loves the materials available at the school."**



Tirinigo; student's parent



students at Jobir School



Children under learning:
Nurturing young minds for a brighter future.

ESD's pedagogical resource center producing different pedagogical materials to improve preprimary education quality.



PROGRAM
FOCUS

2

EDUCATION

Education

ESD has been working in Education program since its establishment in different regions of Ethiopia. In 2023, 20,552 (50% female) individuals were reached and significant milestones were achieved in Amhara Region North Shoa Zone with create a supportive environment for girls' education to ensure that girls in the area have access and complete secondary education.

The child led research was the core activity through which barriers of education of children particularly girls were identified, presented and action plans were developed accordingly. Based on the proposed solutions, mini-projects were designed and implemented to address specific barriers identified by the child-led research.

What's more ESD constructed new girls' rooms to support menstrual hygiene management and sanitary pad preparation training too effectively reduced absenteeism and dropout rates among schoolgirls. Further they took safeguarding training and it emphasized the importance of creating a safe and abuse-free learning environment for girls.

The male engagement training was very effective to aware the importance of involving boys and men in gender equality and the life skills and leadership training for girls' club members have had a ripple effect, benefitting 480 (100 % female) club members and contributing to their personal growth.

International Girls' Day was commemorated under the theme "Let Me Learn," amplifying the voices of girls and highlighting the significance of investing in their agency for social development. The annual girls' sports competitions have also provided a platform for fostering confidence, developing teamwork skills, and promoting the importance of physical fitness.



Enrolled 1041 disadvantaged children in early childhood education.

Empowered 248 women through income-generating initiatives.



PROGRAM
FOCUS

3

GIRLS & WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT

Girls and Women Empowerment

During the 2023 fiscal year, ESD's girls and women empowerment effort reached 2,165 community members, creating a significant impact in Amhara, Oromiya, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, and SNNP regions. The primary focus was on enhancing the economic and social empowerment of girls and women living in poverty through income generation activities.

The Economic Empowerment program for married adolescent girls aged 15-19, significantly improved the economic status of 253 married adolescent girls and their husbands. These adolescents collectively saved 419,400 birr and received a total of 379,765.5 birr in matching funds and in-kind support (136 goats). They were able to start income-generating activities, leading to an improvement in their saving culture. Currently, they continue to save from the businesses they operate.

Furthermore, the husbands' attitudes towards gender equality, good parenting, and child care issues changed after receiving training. They are now actively participating in household chores and taking on child care responsibilities.

Moreover, successful training was provided for 160 impoverished mothers in various key areas such as Small Ruminant Management, Forage Development, Child Care, and Conflict Resolution. Additional support was given to them in the form of 160 high-yielding goats, seed funding amounting to 113,000 Birr.

Likewise, 248 women from impoverished communities in Northshoa Zone Amhara and Oromia regions were organized into self-help groups where they received assistance for income-generating initiatives such as poultry farming, small-scale trading, and livestock rearing. These women not only experienced a boost in their income levels but also managed to save a substantial amount for their future ventures, demonstrating the project's positive impact on empowering women and fostering economic resilience within the communities.

The tangible impact of the program is evident as SHG members have successfully started Income Generating Activities (IGAs), fostered a culture of saving, enhanced social bonds within their groups, and gained support from their husbands in domestic responsibilities. The SHGs have successfully generated substantial incomes and have shown growth in leadership roles and decision-making skills.

ESD's unwavering dedication to empowering women and girls in the community has yielded impressive results in the Sidama and North Shoa program areas, making a significant impact across various dimensions.

The Inspiring Journey of Aster Samuel



I am Aster Samuel, a mother of seven wonderful children. Not too long ago, I faced immense challenges in supporting my family. However, everything took a positive turn when I became involved with ESD's transformative Biruh project.

Thanks to the support and invaluable resources provided by ESD, I was able to start a business with their guidance. Through the project, I acquired new skills and techniques that led to a significant boost in my income.

Today, I take pride in showcasing selling my locally produced dairy products at diverse markets, managed to earn up to 10,000 Birr monthly. This income stream has allowed me to satisfy my family's needs and even set aside savings for the future. ESD's project has truly been a life-changing experience for me, equipping me with the tools and avenues necessary for personal growth and success. I am genuinely thankful for the support extended to me and am committed to forging a brighter future for myself and my beloved children.

Our solar training at TVTE College



PROGRAM
FOCUS

4

ENVIRONMENT PRO-
TECTION AND RE-
NEWABLE ENERGY

Environment protection and renewable energy

ESD's Environment protection and renewable energy program focus has exceeded expectations in the 2023 fiscal year, illuminating pathways for youth self-reliance and environmental protection. Our mission extended across multiple districts, including Debre Birehan, Tarmaber, Kewot Ensaro, Siadebr, H/Maryam, Asagrt, Mojanawodera, Ankober, Dawa Cheffa, Artumafursi, Dessie zuria, Kutaber, Albuko, and Legabo.

The Solar Learning Ethiopia project, part of the Environment Protection and Renewable Energy Program, trained 446 youth in solar technology and micro-entrepreneurship. These trained technicians have formed solar enterprises, installing systems in 9,000 households and 15 health centers and educational institutions. The program has impacted over 40,000 communities, with a focus on empowering youth and promoting environmental stewardship.

Moreover in collaboration with 3 TVET colleges, 116 (40% female) aspiring young solar technicians completed Level II of our solar photovoltaic technology curriculum. Notably, 102 of these graduates have gone on to establish nine enterprises and join the workforce. This was not only contributes to the reduction of unemployment but also meets the increasing demand for solar solutions. Over the past six months, 829 solar panels were sold, generating a net profit of 101,640,600 ETB. This surge in demand underscores the transformative impact of solar lanterns in transforming rural lives.

With 102 graduates establishing nine enterprises, the positive effects ripple through the community, creating a descent employment opportunities and fostering the growth of local businesses. Demonstrating our commitment to community welfare, 134 solar lanterns were distributed, raising 201,000 ETB, expanding the reach and impact of solar technology.



Solar Students under practical learning

Empowering Communities with Solar Energy: The Journey of Aynalem Aberash and Friends

Today, we proudly stand here representing the enterprise of Aynalem Aberash and their friends, eager to share the inspiring journey of our solar enterprise in the North Shoa Zone Tarmaber districts. We are driven by a passion for renewable energy and a vision for a better future.

Our story began with 12 dedicated individuals, out of whom 10 of them being women, who successfully completed a solar photovoltaic vocational training course at Debre Sina TEVT College, funding and support provided by ESD. Equipped with advanced skills and knowledge at level II, we embarked on a mission to make a positive impact in our community. Our goal was clear yet impactful: to offer affordable solar solutions to households.

Before embarking on this entrepreneurial path, we faced financial struggles as daily laborers. However, with the support of the ESD solar project, we received training, start-up capital, and solar lanterns for promotional purposes. This support not only facilitated our entry into the market but also empowered us to serve and uplift our community.

Despite facing challenges on our journey, we have successfully distributed over 87 solar lanterns and maintained 29 more for off-grid communities. Our total capital has surpassed 176,200 ETB, enabling us to improve livelihoods and mitigate health issues stemming from traditional energy sources.

Through our solar business, we have not only increased our income but also nurtured self-esteem, initiative, and a positive outlook on life. Our experience serves as a testament to the fact that with determination and support, any challenge can be overcome, and any dream can be realized.



Aynalem, Aberash and Friends solar enterprise members.

Our youth program participant is engaged in poultry production business .



PROGRAM
FOCUS

5

**YOUTH SKILLS DE-
VELOPMENT AND JOB
CREATION**

Youth Skills Development and Job Creation

ESD's Youth skill Development and Job Creation Program benefited 2,816 (50% female) community members by equipping youth with practical skills, fostering entrepreneurship, and generating income through various ventures at Amhara and Sidama regions. With the goal of ensuring equitable access to vocational and life skills training that directly lead to gainful employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed youth, the project enabled them enabling them to become self-sufficient.

The training covers a range of skills including poultry production, sheep fattening, milk collection and processing, beauty salon service, catering, hotel operation, dairy production and tailoring and beyond technical skills, soft skills training equips youth with business strategy, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities, ensuring they are well-prepared for the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

Youths participate in this short-term vocational skills training acquired theoretical and practical skills at respective training centers with well experienced trainers and among the graduates who took CoC exam, 90% of them passed the exam.

The youth skill development and job creation program has successfully unlocked opportunities for unemployed and underemployed youth with strategically targeted local market needs. Graduates are now; most of them successfully operating their independent ventures, while the remaining have organized themselves into self-help saving groups, fostering collaboration and mutual support.



Lema Leballo, a participant in ESD's youth program, manages his own vegetable farm.



ESD's youth participant is undergoing catering training.

Birhan Multipurpose Youth Skill Training Center in Debrebirhan town. Under construction in a 7551 meter square lot of land since 2021.

The town administration provided this plot of land for the purpose of this construction with a free of charge.

As part of our commitment to youth empowerment and community development, the construction of **Multipurpose Youth Skill Training center** is progressing steadily. Once completed, the center will serve as a hub for various activities aimed at fostering youth skill development, catering services, and serving as a center of excellence for the community.

Currently the construction of garment training rooms, library room, store, meeting hall, offices, syndicate rooms, and bath rooms have completed and ready for use. The remaining catering, training rooms, and coffee shop, as well as the theoretical training rooms are under construction.

We are enthusiastic about the positive impact this project will have on the lives of youth in Debrebirhan and surrounding areas. Our team is dedicated to ensuring the successful completion of the construction phase and the subsequent launch of the center.

The construction work experienced some delays due to conflict; because of the ongoing conflict between the federal government and TPLF and the subsequent state of emergency /movement restriction. Moreover, the prevailing political tension and instability have further impacted the pace of construction.



From Job seeker to Entrepreneur

Zelalem Getachew, a talented hairdressing stylist in Hawasa city Diaspora resident. Years ago, he was a jobless youth who spent his time idling, vulnerable to substance abuse and illegal migration due to a lack of a bright future.

He never imagined that life would give him a chance. Living a hopeless life with his family, the prospects of breaking free from the monotony seemed dim.

After years of waiting, an opportunity finally came his way when he joined ESD's youth skill development program. This was a turning point for him, and he gave it his all. Zelalem's efforts paid off as he successfully completed the course, bringing a new ray of hope into his life. He then went on to open his own hairdressing shop.

With his newfound skills and enthusiasm, Zelalem significantly increased his income to 500 birr per day. Not only did he hire his classmates, but he also became a source of support and pride for them, showcasing his independence. Additionally, he has plans to establish a Hairdressing Training Center.

It wasn't just the skill acquisition that led to Zelalem's success; it was also the mindset change brought about by life skills training that helped him achieve his goals and pursue his passion.



Participants of the voice of women and girls workshop



PROGRAM FOCUS

6

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian response

Education for Sustainable Development demonstrates its unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals through its humanitarian response program.

ESD supported with food and nonfood items including hygiene materials for 3200 (60% female) internally displaced needy people and also provided scholastic material and equipment for the conflict affected schools children and host community.

Moreover, during the 2023 fiscal year, the organization focused on girls in IDP centers who were deprived of education due to crises.

Through a comprehensive situational analysis research conducted in various IDP centers nationwide, ESD identified the urgent needs of girls to facilitate their return to education. The situational analysis report prompted the development of a policy brief advocating for the rights of IDP girls to access free, safe, and quality education by urging the policy makers to incorporate emergency education into government policies and strategies.

In further stabilization of the issue, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) produced a short documentary to amplify the voices of girls and women in IDP centers. Additionally, in collaboration with partner organizations, ESD organized a Voice of Girls and Women Workshop in Addis Ababa, bringing together stakeholders from diverse sectors. Furthermore, through Ethiopia Television's "Silesua" program, ESD effectively raised awareness about the challenges faced by girls in IDP centers.

Based on its strategic direction from 2022 to 2026, ESD remains dedicated to its commitment to its humanitarian response program. Currently, an accelerated learning program is being implemented to address the ECDE gap in IDP center at Bakelo camps in the North Shoa zone Amhara region.



A Voice for the Voiceless

At the Debrebirhan IDP centers, ESD conducted footage to assess the living conditions of those affected by conflict. Among the many faces they encountered, one stood out - a young girl who had lost her father due to the violence and was now living in the center without proper food, sanitary pads, or other essential items.

The Hawulet kasim; despite she expressed her difficult circumstances, this girl showed gratitude towards the organization. She said, "I strongly want to thank you for your concern about our situation. We are suffering a lot without anyone who hears our voice. But now, you are the one who wants to be a voice for the voiceless like us. It's so painful to suffer without anyone telling us to be strong and that everything will be alright. But I feel hope now because I see that there is someone who cares about me, even if that person is not my family."

Her words touched the hearts of everyone at ESD. We realized that our work was not just about providing aid and assistance; it was also about giving hope and showing compassion to those who had lost everything. This story serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and compassion in humanitarian work. It shows that sometimes, all it takes is a listening ear and a helping heart to make a difference in someone's life – especially for those who feel voiceless and forgotten in times of crisis.



Hawulet kasim

LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout the 2023 fiscal year, we encountered various challenges that taught us valuable lessons on how to effectively achieve our goals despite facing barriers and obstacles. One key lesson learned was the importance of working in collaboration with other organizations in the district to overcome redundancy in beneficiary selection.

Additionally, involving local leaders and elders in project implementation proved crucial in attaining our intended objectives. We also realized that government structure and stakeholder consent and involvement are essential for the successful implementation of projects. Organizing periodic social accountability discussions with responsible government staffs was identified as a requirement for ensuring project success.

Furthermore, operating in an area with political instability and conflict required us to focus on relatively secure areas within the Amhara region projects. Adhering to state of emergency regulations, such as restrictions on meetings, internet blockages, and movement limitations, taught us a lot about how to manage our plan and find new ways for continued project progress.

Lastly, we had to adjust plans and schedules due to increasing inflation rates, implementing acceleration plans to ensure the completion of project activities within the year. These lessons have equipped us with valuable insights for future projects and will guide our approach towards overcoming challenges effectively.

The students at Jobir Preprimary School, which was constructed by ESD.



NETWORKING and ALLIANCES

ESD is a member of national **ECDE** Technical Working Group (TWG) being led by the MOE, **Her Choice Alliance**, Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (**CCRDA**), Basic Education Network (**BEN**), Core Humanitarian Standard (**CHS**) alliance, and Girls not Brides, Men engagement and Consortium of Self-Help Approach (**COSAP**).



The Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) center established by ESD is situated within the Bake-lo IDP Center in the North Shoa zone of the Amhara region.



SHG members meeting

ESD GOVERNANCE and LEADERSHIP

ESD has a board of directors and a management team. The board of directors is composed of seven members from different professions who meet quarterly to follow up on project performances and take corrective measures when necessary. The management team is led by the executive directress, and they are responsible for the day-to-day operational activities of the organization.

The organization currently has a total of 62 staff members, who are divided into two coordination units and a head office. These staff members are strategically distributed across three different locations, collaborating closely to achieve the organization's objectives. Each coordination unit is led by a dedicated coordinator who oversees a team of staff members with specialized roles. The head office serves as the central hub, where staff members are responsible for managing and coordinating the organization's overall operations.



Board Members Meeting

Acknowledgements

We highly appreciate all our funding partners for the financial and technical supports that enable us to fulfill our strategic objectives and serving the communities in need. Your financial and technical support, as well as your ongoing follow-up and assistance, enabled us to accomplish a remarkable outcome by intervening in the community's concerns.

With your consistent donations over the years, you've shown your profound dedication to our work (youth skill development and job creation, early child development intervention, women and girls empowerment, environment protection and renewable energy, and Humanitarian and emergency response).

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ESD is grateful for Likeminded organizations and our partners for your efforts to standing with us at a time of need.





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