



EDUCATION

FOR MOST MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ETHIOPIA

ACCESS AND QUALITY

Without a quality education, which is inclusive and equitable, children are at greater risk of poverty, stigmatization and violence. For children who are marginalized, access to quality education can mean the difference between a lifetime of exclusion or becoming an active member of society. It opens up opportunities of fair and equal access to decent jobs, living wages, and sustainable and healthy livelihoods. SOS Children's Villages, therefore, strongly believes that securing quality education for all children, particularly for those who are the most vulnerable and marginalized, is essential to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.

In order to strengthen opportunities for children and young people without parental care or whose families are at risk of separation, SOS Children's Villages works together with local

governments, non-governmental organizations, communities and families to strengthen local schools, provide formal education, and vocational training, support early childhood learning and create educational opportunities when they do not exist.

Inclusive education ensures that all children and young people must have access to education, independently of their financial situation, ethnicity, gender, disability or family background. Nevertheless, mere access is not enough. There is a second step to achieving sustainable change, which is to ensure quality education.



CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS QUALITY EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

Since its establishment in Ethiopia 40 years ago, SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia has been working in the area of education and training for marginalized and vulnerable children and youth to enable them break the cycle of poverty, marginalization and discrimination. Through its educational facilities (7 Kindergartens, 6 Primary and secondary schools and 2 Colleges) more than 5000 children have access to quality education. In addition, 1800 youth who were at risk-of-drop-out and drop-outs have been supported to continue their education in 16 different public schools. The public schools have also been capacitated through trainings for teachers and their leaders; and through provision of school supplies, materials and apparatus to enable them improve the quality of their education.

Youth Education Program

Youth Education Program, which is run in four different program locations: Hawassa, Jimma, Bahir Dar and Mekelle, has been one of the big programs of SOSCVI. Youth Education Program is a community based educational outreach program designed with the overall objective of contributing towards enhanced completion rate of upper primary and secondary school students [Grade 5 – grade 12]. Youth who are at risk of dropping out of school and those who have already dropped out of school are the primary beneficiaries of the program.

The direct benefits for the targeted youth include: scholastic materials [school uniforms, school bag, exercise books, writing utensils, sport outfit]; stipend for those who deserve the provision, basic life skill and meta-cognitive skill

training, and academic support in terms of tutorial lessons. The public schools also benefits from the program in terms of training for the teachers and their school leaders.



We believe that the intervention impacts the quality of education rendered to our targeted youth in particular and the other school children and youth, in general.

Helping Young People Realize their Dreams

Mekides Melaku is one of the beneficiaries of the Youth Education Program in Bahir Dar. She lost *her parents at her early childhood. Due to this she had to struggle a lot to continue her education.*

Due to the benefit she received from the Youth Education Program, such as school uniform, school bag, exercise books, pen, pencil, mathematical instrument, sport outfits, shoes and stipend money for food, she was able to continue her education. She has also been supported through tutorial lessons and have been trained how to improve her learning and life skills. This has reduced the economic barrier for her education. 'Owing to the support from SOS Children's Village's Ethiopia and my personal aspiration and hard work; I have successfully promoted to grade 9 after qualifying a Regional Examination. Currently, I am attending Tana-Haik Secondary School. I have a dream to become a respected professional.' Mekedes says.

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