

# A BRIGHTER FUTURE AHEAD

**ETHIOPIAID**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

It has been a busy year for Ethiopiaid and our partners. One of our key areas of work remains the eradication of obstetric fistula and you can read on the following pages how our fistula partner combines surgery and rehabilitation to completely transform women's lives.

The good news is that the number of cases in Ethiopia is beginning to decline and The Hamlin Fistula Hospital is now able to also treat women with uterine prolapse. These women suffer the same symptoms as fistula patients and many cases in Ethiopia go untreated, leaving women in acute pain with recurrent bladder infections or incontinence. It is encouraging to see our partner using their expertise, developed through treating fistula, to help cure women with prolapse as well.

In October, we had the pleasure to host a remarkable exhibition of Ethiopian art, in collaboration with the Makush Art Gallery of Addis Ababa, to celebrate 15 years of our charity work on health, education and women's welfare in Ethiopia. The stories that we hear about Ethiopia are often focused on the immense difficulties facing the country. Thirty years of famine and drought-focused campaigns have shaped the image of Ethiopia in the mind of the Irish public. With the exhibition we wanted to focus on the rich and diverse culture of Ethiopia, specifically the visual culture, the excitement and talent emerging from the country, which is unique to Africa, given the country's history of independence and multiculturalism.



The event was a success and you can read how to purchase some of the remaining art pieces in this newsletter, with proceeds from the sale going to fund our key partners in Ethiopia.

You may be aware that in May 2018 new EU legislation is coming in which will have a profound impact on Ethiopiaid and many other charities.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the biggest overhaul of data protection legislation for over 25 years. At Ethiopiaid we have always prided ourselves on protecting our donors' contact details and never sharing data but from now on we also have to have your permission to contact you, not just for fundraising but even to send you a thank you letter. We don't want to lose touch with our loyal donor base and are deeply concerned that this new legislation will impact on our ability to raise funds. We are worried about the knock on affects this will have on our beneficiaries in Ethiopia. If our income drops they are the ones that will suffer. So I encourage you all to please fill out the enclosed response slip to give your consent so we can keep in touch and tell you how your support is helping some of the poorest people in Ethiopia.

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and happy festive season and thank you so much for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Chapman".

**Alexandra Chapman**  
Ethiopiaid Ireland Board Member

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017



Hope College: **177** Students from 8 courses graduated in 2017

AWSAD: **17** young survivors of violence have been supported to complete their studies



Facing Africa performed **22** facial reconstruction surgeries during May's complex mission

Our fistula partner provided **2,500** women with free surgery to transform their lives



**15,000** expectant mothers were safely delivered thanks to the expertise of Hamlin midwives

Hope Enterprises purchased and distributed **126,400** loafs of bread to vulnerable children



**1,636** patients were provided with Cheshire made prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs or walking frames

# OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Obstetric Fistula destroys lives and is considered by many as a fate worse than death.

Women with obstetric fistula suffer terribly. Most become outcasts and are abandoned by their husbands, families and communities. Believing that there is no cure they live a desperate life alone.

Ethiopiaid supporters are helping our partner:

- **Hamlin Fistula Hospital** – Five fistula hospitals, a midwife college and one rehabilitation training centre.

When it comes to tackling fistula in Ethiopia, our partner The Hamlin Fistula Hospital is leading the way. Together, we aim to reach every woman living with fistula, treat their devastating injury and help them resume their lives as mothers, wives and members of their community.

This combination of surgery, counselling, training and rehabilitation completely



transforms a woman's life, healing both the body and her mind.

93% of obstetric fistula sufferers give birth to a stillborn baby. This terrible injury is caused by prolonged obstructed labour leaving holes between the vagina, rectum and urethra. An estimated 39,000 women in Ethiopia are still living with the incontinence, stigma and pain of obstetric fistula.

So much has been achieved by our partner already with significant improvements in fistula prevention and access to maternal care. However in rural areas women are still suffering with over 3,000 new fistula cases occurring every year.

Obstetric fistula is preventable and curable. With surgery taking as little as 45 minutes, no woman should have to face a lifetime of suffering.

Together we can reach the thousands of women who are still living with fistula and bring an end to their suffering.

#### Looking ahead to next year:

- Provide free surgery to over 2,500 women living with fistula and transform their lives.
- Safely deliver 15,000 expectant mothers thanks to the expertise of Hamlin midwives who are based in communities.
- Train and rehabilitate fistula survivors so that they can rebuild their lives.
- Train midwives and share expertise with medical professionals across the country.



**€25**

transports her whilst in labour to receive medical help



**€45**

pays for physiotherapy so she can regain strength and movement



**€250**

helps her rehabilitate and learn income generation skills



**€635**

surgically repairs her fistula injury



**€3,000**

trains a Hamlin midwife for one year



**"In those painful times when I had a fistula I almost gave up. But then my injury was treated .... now I have a happy life. Thank you so much."**

*Wubesh who lived with fistula for 2 years before surgery*

# EDUCATION THROUGH HOPE

Hope's street children's breakfast programme continues to offer a simple intervention for the poorest children in Addis and Dessie. Around 1,200 children arrive every morning for a breakfast of milk, bread and a banana. Of these children 450 are already enrolled in school and helped with school supplies and uniforms. For those not in school the breakfast service offers an opportunity to engage them with basic education and offer support.

The end of the academic year saw graduation ceremonies taking place across all of Hope's seven schools. Kindergarten students enjoyed ceremonies and activities organised by year 9 pupils who performed fashion shows, poetry and songs in celebration.

Technical and vocational training (TVET) is an important element of Hope's work. Training young people to have the skills to obtain gainful employment upon graduation is crucial if they are to lift themselves out of poverty.

Hope's TVET students enjoy access to a range of courses from hospitality, catering and furniture making, to industrial electronics, metalwork and tailoring. Of the 140 graduates this year, 40 had already secured jobs before graduation. Hope is recognised by the Ethiopian government as the only educational NGO offering vocational training in Addis Ababa and to a standard higher than that of any other institution.

## Looking ahead to next year:

- Over 4,200 pupils attending Hope's primary and secondary schools.
- 146 young people enrolled on Technical and Vocational Training courses.
- 38 mothers and street girls trained in tailoring to help them earn an income.
- 1,000 impoverished elders and disabled adults receiving one meal every day in Addis.

**€125**  
can provide  
breakfast and  
schooling for a  
street child one  
year

- Improve livelihoods of student families through training in bee keeping and vegetable growing.



## DROUGHT RELIEF

**Back to back droughts and unpredictable rains across Ethiopia have continued to destroy communities and livelihoods. Many remote families in Afar have barely survived.**

The response of Ethiopiaaid supporters to our emergency appeal has been overwhelming. The malnourished and most vulnerable have only been able to survive thanks to the donations our supporters have made and which have enabled the provision of food aid, water and medicine provided by our partner - the Afar Pastoralist Development Association's (APDA).

APDA have worked tirelessly to reach those most at risk, their health workers walk from household to household to reach pregnant mothers, children, the sick, elderly and the malnourished.

In 2017 APDA received a grant from Ethiopiaaid Ireland totalling €20,000 to help cover the cost of continued water trucking, water purification tablets, food rations, livestock support and to keep its important healthcare workers in the field. This funding provided a safety net of support for thousands of people.

Climate change is likely to mean a future of frequent unpredictable rainfall, floods

and devastating droughts in regions of Ethiopia. Water trucking is life-saving particularly for communities where the topography of the land means drilling for water is impossible. APDA recognise that whilst water trucking is for some communities the only way to get clean and safe water, it is not a long term solution. They are working hard to implement long term interventions so that communities can harvest and store water when it does rain and reduce their reliance on water trucking.

In areas where the topography allows APDA hope to use their skills and equipment to drill new boreholes, install wells and maintain cisterns, which serve as a reservoir and storage for rainwater.



**27,000**  
people accessed  
clean drinking  
water thanks to  
88 days of water  
trucking



**1,994,000**  
people each  
received  
1.63 litres clean  
water daily



**5,500**  
drought affected  
households had  
5 water schemes  
refurbished

# TREATING NOMA AND FACIAL DISFIGUREMENTS

Twice a year a team of volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses are recruited by our partner, Facing Africa, to travel to Ethiopia and treat the survivors of Noma, facial burns and tumours.

Noma is a devastating gangrenous infection that occurs mainly in malnourished babies and young children. It starts as a small infection in the mouth and within days can rapidly spread, eating away at tissue and bone. Over 85% of those infected die and the survivors are left with horrific facial injuries. They are scarred for life, emotionally and physically, isolated and hidden away by their families.

This year more than 40 facial reconstruction surgeries were undertaken. This included extremely challenging and complex surgeries for two gravely ill patients who would not have survived much longer.

€100

provides post operative residential care for one child and their carer

Ethiopiaid supporters fund the essential post operative care, accommodation and food for every patient helped by our partner.

“Recently I have returned from my eighth (complex) surgical mission to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. As always, I come back older, slightly wiser but also humbled by what we see and do there. We are dealing with the treatment of a devastating disease called Noma... and those who survive often have terrible facial deformities as well as difficulties eating and drinking. We... treat these very challenging patients in the middle of a poor developing country.”

- Hiroshi Nishikawa, Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic surgeon.

## Looking ahead to next year:

- Finding more Noma survivors - the ongoing drought has caused widespread displacement making them even harder to find.
- Continuing outreach activities so that rural health workers can spot the early signs of Noma before it's too late.
- Surgical and wound care training with Ethiopian medical staff.



# CHILDREN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

**Cheshire Services is a vital charity that provides a programme of holistic orthopaedic and rehabilitation services for children, young people and adults living with disabilities.**

This year Ethiopiaid supporters have helped Cheshire to change the lives of nearly 2,500 children.

Cheshire have four sites across the country: Menagesha, Hawassa, Dire Dawa and Reed House (in Addis Ababa). Their programmes include corrective surgery, out-patient physiotherapy clinics, training for parents and carers, provision of mobility aids and a residential centre where, this year, 68 children stayed whilst undergoing corrective treatments. The centre at Menagesha is the only place of its kind in Ethiopia and children from across the country are treated there. Here they receive physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and are able to access informal education whilst they recover.

Every day life if you are living with a disability is incredibly difficult in Ethiopia.

An important area of Cheshire's work is the manufacturing of orthopedic limbs, shoes, rough rider wheelchairs and walking aids. These items are difficult to come by in Ethiopia and are very expensive to import. Cheshire's extensive workshop creates and assembles a variety of different mobility aids which are made to measure for adults and children. This year these devices have completely changed the lives of 1,636 children.

Cheshire also delivered a mobile outreach programme to 304 children. This home based rehabilitation enabled children to be supported after they have returned to their rural homes. This year 80 parents were also provided with livelihood support and skills based training as part of the programme.

## Looking ahead to next year:

- 68 children will have corrective procedures and residential rehabilitation.
- 340 parents and babies will be seen in the outpatient clinics.
- 80 families of children with disabilities will be helped with skills training through a new livelihood project.
- 1,636 children will be provided with mobility aids.



€50

could contribute  
towards a  
prosthetic limb  
for a child

# SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

**The Association of Women’s Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) work tirelessly to provide protection and support for female survivors of gender based violence. The women and girls who are referred to AWSAD have suffered emotional abuse, physical violence and rape, often by male family members, neighbours or employers.**

Every year the demand for AWSAD’s services grows. In the last 6 months alone AWSAD has supported 160 women and 73 of their children at their safe houses.

We are delighted to report that AWSAD have now opened their new safe house in Hawassa. Speaking at the inauguration

ceremony, Fantaye Gezahegn, Deputy Head of Charities and Societies Agency, said, “Because the only organisation in Hawassa that used to provide similar services closed down recently, this new AWSAD safe house is just in time. As a fast-growing city with an industrial zone that houses dozens of manufacturing companies, Hawassa is the destination of choice for women and girls throughout the region. Migrant women often become vulnerable to violence in their search for employment. AWSAD does the difficult job of helping these women recuperate from their trauma and develop a positive mindset to start thinking about development” Fantaye said.

**€250**

provides one survivor with a safe haven for 6 months





Further good news is that 17 young women at the Addis Ababa safe house are continuing to pursue their formal studies in primary, secondary and higher education. Thanks to your support AWSAD has been able to pay for school fees, educational materials (such as textbooks, stationery etc), uniforms, transport and a small allowance for personal costs. Staff have regular contact with these girls' schools so that their academic progress can be monitored and their studies supported.

AWSAD provide safe houses, legal advice, health services and vocational training for the women and girls in its

care, this includes teaching basic numeracy and literacy for those who have not had any formal education. Residents are also encouraged to develop their self-esteem and confidence by being physically active and developing their own interests. Two of the girls have already completed a scout fellowship course.

Many of the younger women ran in the Addis Ababa 5km run, with one of the girls winning a medal for completing the race in 30 minutes.

#### **Looking ahead to next year:**

- Providing protection and shelter for over 400 survivors.
- Teaching children from 242 schools in Ethiopia about the harm of gender based violence.
- Establishing a new safe house in the Northern Afar region.
- Working with police and other officials to encourage reporting of abuse and violence.



# ETHIOPIAN ART EXHIBITION 2017

**This October Ethiopiaid, in partnership with the Makush Art Gallery, hosted an exhibition of Ethiopian art to celebrate 15 years of Ethiopiaid's charity work on health, education and women's welfare in Ethiopia.**

The Art Exhibition was officially opened in The Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, on October 12th by Ireland's best known columnist and broadcaster John Masterson and celebrity chef Kevin Thornton, who has been involved with charitable work in Ethiopia for almost ten years. Over 200 paintings from Ethiopian artists, celebrating the best of the African nation's modern art, were on display until October 15th.

"Ethiopia is a country that holds a special place in my heart, having spent much time there over the last eight years working with communities as a catering mentor. The work of Irish people, in partnership with grassroots organisations in Ethiopia has played an integral part in bringing

the country out of, what seemed like, hopeless times due to famine, drought and insidious poverty." - Kevin Thornton.

Artists Dimetros Kidane, Atklit Assefa and Abiy Eshete travelled to Ireland for the occasion and had the opportunity to talk to the Irish public about the value of art in modern Ethiopia, while allowing Ethiopiaid to benefit from the sale of their pieces and raise much needed funds in support of our Ethiopian partners.



Ethiopiaid Board Members (L-R): Harriet Andrews, Philip O'Dwyer, Lydia McCormack and David Murphy



(L-R) Bruk Hiwet and Kevin Thornton



A Beautiful Ethiopian Art Exhibition, Smock Alley Theatre

**We are delighted to confirm some paintings from the exhibition are still available to buy.**

**If you wish to buy one of these beautiful paintings, please contact us at [hello@ethiopiaid.ie](mailto:hello@ethiopiaid.ie), (0)1 677 51 88 or online on [ethiopianartshow.net](http://ethiopianartshow.net).**



Atklit Assefa  
80 cm x 80 cm  
NJC 207  
**€300**



Dimetros Kidane  
Dejene  
100 cm x 80cm  
NJC 189  
**€450**



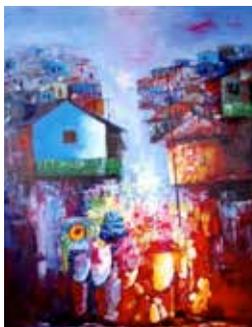
Dimetros Kidane  
Dejene  
100 cm x 80cm  
NJC 190  
**€450**



Dimetros Kidane  
Dejene  
100 cm x 80cm  
NJC 193  
**€450**



Atklit Assefa  
80 cm x 60cm  
NJC 211  
**€250**



Atklit Assefa  
100 cm x 80cm  
NJC 201  
**€450**



Atklit Assefa  
100 cm x 80cm  
NJC 204  
**€450**

# JOIN US IN ETHIOPIA!

**Are you looking to challenge yourself, raise money for our partners and see the work you are supporting?**

**We have a trip for you that covers all of this and more!**

Each November, Ethiopiaid runs a fundraising trip to Addis Ababa, offering you the once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit and volunteer with the partner charities you help us to support – giving you the opportunity to see the difference you make first-hand.

During your visit you will also take part in the Great Ethiopian Run. This 10km run through the streets of Addis Ababa is like no other. You can walk, run or jog (and of course sing and dance) with 40,000 other participants, so despite the altitude and heat, you can take it at your own pace making it an achievable challenge for everyone and an experience that you'll never forget!

The 2018 trip dates are between 21st and 27th flying from Dublin and requires you to commit to fundraising €3,500 (inclusive of flights and an upfront registration fee of €350).

If you would like to find out more information, please telephone Eufemia Solinas on **01 6775188** or email [eufemia@ethiopiaid.ie](mailto:eufemia@ethiopiaid.ie)

Spaces are limited and allocated upon payment of the €350. registration fee.

**This really is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!**





## THE GREATEST GIFT

We are always humbled by the generosity and commitment of our donors. The support we receive makes such a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in a country that is still very poor.

Your Will is one of the most important documents that you will write, and the decisions about what happens to your estate after your death is a very personal one.

Leaving a gift in your Will does not cost you anything during your lifetime and is an opportunity to remember the people and

the causes that you care deeply about. We hope that you will continue to be inspired by the work we do, and that, once you have looked after your friends and family, you will consider including Ethiopiaid in your Will.

“Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world and its people continue to endure terrible suffering. If a gift in my Will can ease that suffering, even for a few people, then it will have been a hugely worthwhile step to take.”

*Ethiopiaid Supporter*

# MAKE A DONATION



Set up a direct debit to make a regular donation\*



Send a cheque or postal order



Make a credit or debit card donation



Make a secure online donation at [ethiopiaid.ie](http://ethiopiaid.ie)



Donate over the phone on: 01 677 5188

*\*Regular gifts are so important to us and simple to set up. Knowing that we have a guaranteed income each month helps us to plan ahead with confidence.*



## MAJOR GIFTS

Philanthropy enables opportunities for significant change. If you are considering giving in this way please contact Eufemia Solinas, Executive Director, to discuss how you can engage with our work. Eufemia can be contacted at [eufemia@ethiopiaid.ie](mailto:eufemia@ethiopiaid.ie) or by calling: 01 6775188



## FUNDRAISE FOR US

We have lots of ideas - donations as wedding or birthday gifts or taking on a challenge. Take a look at 'How you can help' on our website.



## TELL OTHERS

Share this newsletter with friends and family and encourage others to support us in whatever way they can.



## MAKE YOUR GIFT GO FURTHER

If you pay tax under the PAYE system, Ethiopiaid can claim tax back on your donation if it exceeds €250 - €21 a month – in the tax year.  
A monthly donation of €21 could become an amazing €36 a month.



/Ethiopiaid Ireland



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Ethiopiaid Ireland

Registered with the  
Charities Regulator

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Please note names have been changed in the case studies and some library images used, to protect anonymity. In the unlikely event that all the donations cannot be applied to the featured projects, they will, at the Trustees' discretion, be applied to the furtherance of the charity's aims.