

A close-up photograph of a woman with a gentle smile, wearing a black headscarf and a white shawl. She is holding a baby who is wrapped in a light blue blanket with a colorful geometric pattern. The baby is looking off to the side with a curious expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing some outdoor or semi-outdoor setting.

ETHIOPIAID

BEHEBRET TOGETHER

WORKING TOGETHER FOR LASTING CHANGE

**Welcome to Ethiopiaid Ireland Christmas Newsletter
– a time in which we look back to the achievements to
date and we plan activities for the upcoming year.**

I am always impressed by the breadth and diversity of the work Ethiopiaid supports. On pages 5 - 6 you can read about Hamlin Midwifery College and the midwives they train and deploy to remote rural areas to ensure women can deliver their babies safely. You can learn about the amazing work of our education partner Hope Enterprises on pages 4. On page 8 there is an update on America's story, the three year old girl whose face was ravaged by Noma. All this has only been possible thanks to your ongoing valued support, and your ongoing commitment to support some of the most marginalised of our times.

It has also been a challenging year for us with changes to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Not only has it been a huge task to ensure we are compliant, but it has affected our ability to share our story with new audiences. So please do pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join you in supporting Ethiopiaid or find out more about how to fundraise for us on page 3.

I do hope you enjoy reading this update. Thank you so much for your kind support during 2018. I wish you and your loved ones much happiness for the festive season.

David Murphy
Chair of Trustees, Ethiopiaid Ireland



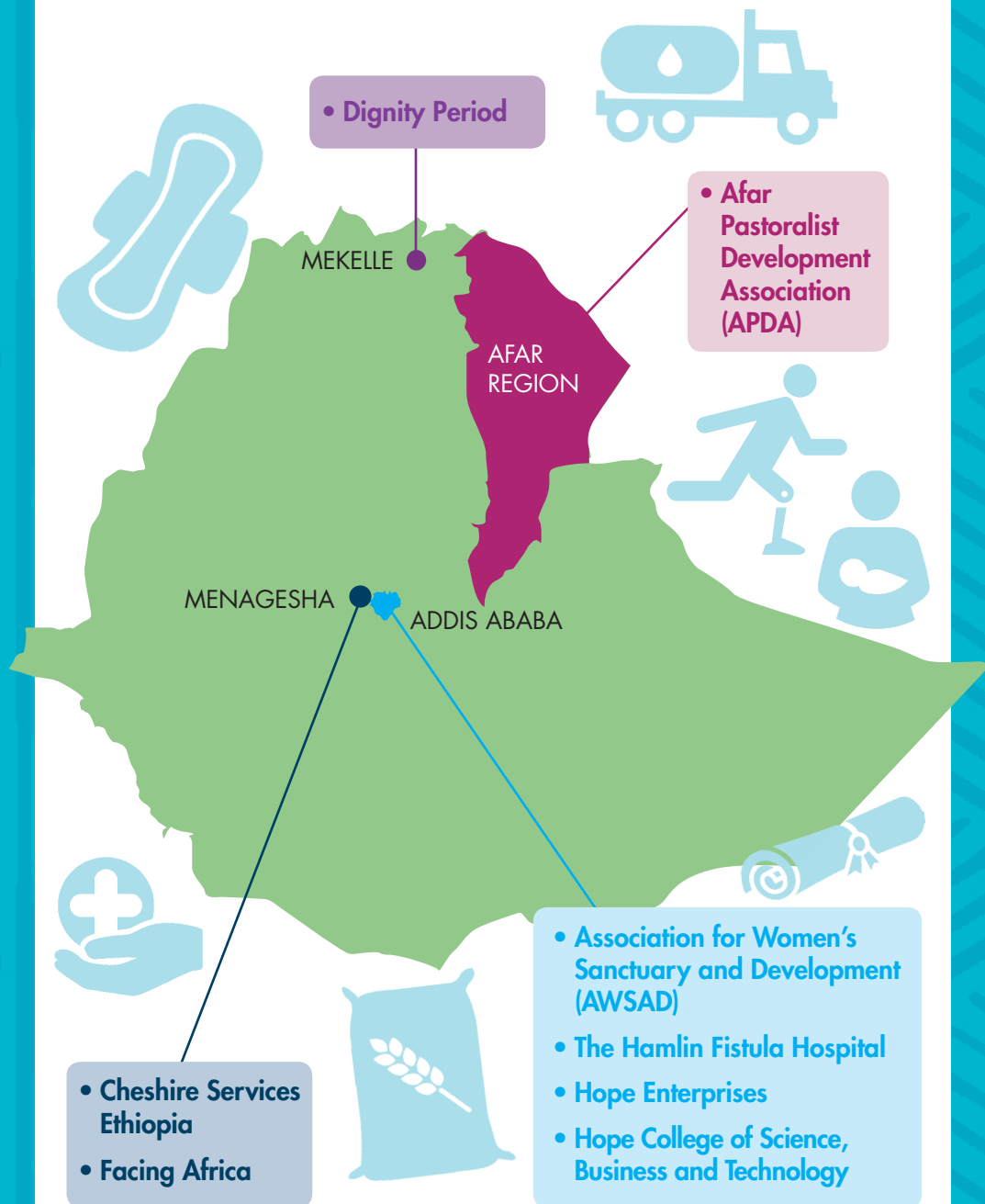
Ethiopiaid was set up by Sir Alec Reed in UK in 1989 and has grown to be an organisation with four offices worldwide, including in Ireland. The 30th anniversary we will celebrate in 2019 is a time to take stock – to celebrate our many achievements and focus on priorities for the future.

'We don't move from project to project depending on what's in vogue. We are interested in the long-term and have worked with some of our partners like Hope, Cheshire and Hamlin since the very beginning to instigate significant and lasting change. This loyal spirit is also true of our supporters, many of whom have been donating to us for over 20 years and some who have kindly remembered us in their Wills.'

'When I founded Ethiopiaid I never dreamt I would be writing to supporters 30 years on! I am so proud of our impact and so grateful to you for making this possible.'

Sir Alec Reed

OUR PARTNERS





INSPIRING FUNDRAISERS

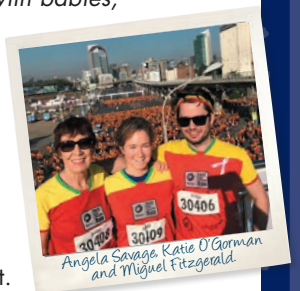
A word of thanks to everyone who has fundraised for us! We have so many wonderful stories, and while we can't sadly feature them all, we want to acknowledge everyone who contributes to achieving our mission.



Katie O'Gorman

After reading about our work, Katie O'Gorman really wanted to do something to help. Katie joined our Great Ethiopian Run Team Challenge in 2017. Of the experience she said *'I had been to Addis in 2013 so I thought I knew what to expect. The difference going back with Ethiopiaid was that, instead of just walking past the many children, mothers with babies, disabled and other poverty stricken people, as part of the team you get to go and meet these people in the projects that support them, you get to hear their stories and understand that they are getting a second chance at life.'*

Upon her return, she inspired her friend Niamh Breen, who organised a pub quiz and ran a fundraising campaign on Facebook to travel with us to Ethiopia this year (2018), raising an amazing €3,500 in support of Hope Street Children Breakfast.



Angela Savage, Katie O'Gorman and Michael Fitzgerald

WAYS YOU CAN FUNDRAISE FOR US



Celebrate! Donations in lieu of gifts.

Sponsored Activity! Run, Walk or a Book Club! Make it your own.

Book Club! For an Ethiopian themed book club meeting, Catherine Hamlin's Hospital by the River is a good place to start. Or try Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese.



Give it up for Ethiopiaid! After the excesses of the festive season, try starting 2019 with a 'Dry January' and ask your friends and family to support you with donations.

Your networks! Who can you approach to fundraise with links to sports clubs, Rotary and Roundtable, the Church, a local Choir, the fireworks display or summer fete, or is there someone with a lovely garden that might host an open day?



EVERY CHILD DESERVES AN EDUCATION

Each year your support provides important funding to our key educational partner Hope Enterprises.

From very humble beginnings Hope now has 7 elementary schools, 6 high schools and 3 vocational training centres across Ethiopia. Over 4,000 children and young people, who might otherwise not have access, benefit from the schooling and training provided.

The children and young people are selected from poor families who cannot afford to send them to a government school.

Once enrolled they are nurtured to become successful students and will ultimately have better life prospects.

Hope's aim is to move students from long-term dependency to self-sufficiency. Support is given to their families, and the wider community, through feeding centres, health, education, food, training and clothing provision.

In addition this year, Hope Enterprises are expanding their reach and delivering also technical and vocational training (TVET).

Education is one of the most powerful tools in breaking the cycle of poverty and Ethiopiaid is committed to helping children and young people create better futures for themselves.



BARRIERS TO EDUCATION



Unable to afford school fees, food, uniforms and basic materials



Children working to support the family



Low level of parental education and ambition

Long distances to school can place children, especially girls, at risk



Lack of menstrual hygiene support means girls are absent or drop out all together





“A MIDWIFE

Dr Catherine Hamlin

Hamlin College of Midwives, improves maternal health, trains and deploys midwives in villages identified for improved maternal health facilities.

Hamlin College of Midwives - 10th Anniversary

It has been ten years since the Hamlin College of Midwives opened its doors to its very first midwifery students. Since then 145 Midwives have been successfully trained and deployed to rural health centres across the country.

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia recruits students from rural areas for their rigorous four year training programme. Upon graduation the students are posted back to their villages where their midwifery skills are so desperately needed.

There are now Hamlin graduated midwives at 46 rural health centres. The long-term effects of having a local midwife are enormous – when a Hamlin midwife starts at a clinic, new cases of fistula drop to virtually zero in nearby villages. In 2017 alone Hamlin Midwives provided skilled delivery services to 10,844 labouring women.

Future of the college

There are now more than 11,000 midwives across Ethiopia – four times as many as there were six years ago. Hamlin believe care should be delivered as close as possible to the communities where women live and should be free to prevent maternal and new-born mortality. The college plans to grow and train even more midwives in the fight to end obstetric fistula.



"LIFE FOR EVERY WOMAN"

Hamlin Co-Founder of the Hamlin Fistula Hospital



Innovation

The unreliability of electric supplies in rural areas has a huge impact on maternal care and places the lives of mothers and babies at risk.

To support midwives in the field Hamlin have provided health centres with an innovative solution – the solar suitcase. These are small suitcases that come complete with lighting, head torch and foetal monitor, all run by a solar powered battery. The equipment means that emergency care can be given, reducing maternal and infant deaths and improving safety in the clinics. Without good lighting, it is extremely difficult to conduct safe deliveries, suture areas of bleeding, and resuscitate babies. So far more than 200 have been installed.



CHESHIRE SERVICES

– A PROJECT IN SUSTAINABILITY

Our long-term disability rehabilitation partner Cheshire Services have been working on a new sustainable livelihoods project. This holistic, long term approach (supporting the whole family of children living with disabilities) is already proving effective. Over the past 6 months, the following activities have been carried out:

Establishing town-level committees:

Local leaders were invited to discuss the importance of reducing poverty and isolation for households whose family members are living with disabilities. Community involvement means long-lasting benefits and local ownership.

Disability inclusion training:

40 local government representatives and community leaders attended (double the anticipated number) the training on disability rights and opportunities.

Beneficiary selection:

The beneficiaries were previous and current service users of Cheshire's outreach programme and included 36 disabled-

headed households and 30 female headed households. All beneficiaries were:

- Permanent residents of the town(s)
- Had a household income below the poverty line
- Committed to child rights and gender equality
- Have a large family size (over Ethiopian average of 4.6)
- Not already supported by other livelihood interventions

Key training given:

- Sheep and poultry care
- Food preparation and nutrition
- Small trade, savings and book-keeping
- Gender equality with a focus on women living with disabilities

Next steps for the beneficiaries:

- To receive sheep and chickens
- Access to seed money for petty trade
- Connect with local agricultural bureaux and micro-finance organisations
 - Undergo disability rights training
 - School materials for children (uniform, books and pens)

We'll keep you posted on this great project!



NOMA SURVIVOR AMERICA

STORY UPDATE



We wanted to give you an update on America – the little girl whose face had been ravaged by Noma (a gangrenous infection - caused by malnutrition and poor sanitation - that eats through skin, muscle and bone).

When America was assessed for a second time in October 2017, it was determined that she was too malnourished for facial surgery and that she had tragically contracted Noma for a second time. America is also HIV positive, which makes her more vulnerable to infection. We had hoped that she would be well enough to undergo her first round of surgery in May 2018 however she was unfortunately still too weak.

America's situation is complicated. Her mother looks after the family alone and is unable to leave her other two children and the family farm. This means she cannot stay in Addis Ababa to ensure that America can receive continual care in-between the complex surgery missions.

The result is every time America is assessed, she is never fit for surgery. Our complex mission partner tries to provide her family with all the necessary financial and medical support (including providing antiviral drugs and food supplements), however it is extremely difficult to maintain this with the family living in the rural countryside. These challenges are continually discussed amongst our partners' medical staff as to how best to support America's mother and siblings to stay with her in Addis Ababa so that she can access ongoing healthcare to get her ready for surgery.

Our partner anticipates that we will be unable to operate on America for the next couple of missions, although they will re-assess her on their next mission to treat malnourishment, tend to her wounds and build up her confidence. America always blossoms while in the care of the nurses.

Despite a difficult start in life, America is a remarkably tough and well balanced child. She loves playing and socialising, and is ultimately just like any other three year old. We will keep you updated on her progress.



THE STORY OF AYELU GRIMA: A VULNERABLE CHILD AT THE SAFE HOUSE WHO WENT ON TO BECOME AN ACCOMPLISHED PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR FOR AWSAD

Ayelu is 23 years old and was born in the Amhara region.

When Ayelu was just 7 years old, her family – who could no longer afford to look after her – sent Ayelu to live with her aunt in Addis Ababa. Although she lived close to her school, Ayelu found it very hard to maintain good attendance due to household duties that kept her very busy.

After school every day, she was expected to work in her cousin's office as a cleaner. At night Ayelu was unable to read or keep on top of her homework because she was not allowed to turn on the light. After a discussion with her cousin, it was agreed that Ayelu could stay in one of his offices – living alongside other relatives who were struggling with their living situations. She had only been there a couple of weeks when another of her cousins (who also lived in the offices) tried to rape her. Unsuccessful, he tried again twice. Ayelu tried to tell her cousin who owned the office, but he did not believe her and forced her to leave. Devastated and humiliated,



Ayelu sat crying on the street. A passer-by stopped and asked what had happened and Ayelu told her everything. This kind stranger put her in touch with the Women & Children Affairs office, who referred Ayelu to the Association of Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD)'s Addis Ababa safe house.

During her time at the safe house, Ayelu was treated with kindness and respect as she recovered from the traumas of sexual assault and estrangement from her family. She benefitted from all of the safe house services AWSAD offer: shelter, counselling, medical treatment, 3 meals per day, personal items (including sanitary wear) and support to continue and complete her education.

Her strength of character and the unwavering support of AWSAD meant that Ayelu has grown from a frightened child to an empowered young woman. She graduated from University with a degree in Social Work and dedicates herself to helping survivors of violence. Inspired by the care she received at AWSAD, Ayelu now works as their Programme Co-ordinator in Dessie. She says:

"I am graduated and employed because of the support of the safe house. My life has changed so much for the better."

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

"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

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 decision 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.

The legacies we receive come in all shapes and sizes and for all kinds of reasons, but whatever the amount and whatever the motivation, every donation made in a Will is valuable to us.

A number of our supporters have also chosen to give a living legacy so that they can enjoy seeing the significance of their gift during their lifetime. If this is an option you would like to explore please do get in touch.



To receive a free information on how to leave a gift in your Will please telephone **01 6775188** or email **hello@ethiopiaid.ie**



MAKE A DONATION



Set up a direct debit to make a regular gift*



Send a cheque or postal order



Make a credit or debit card donation



Make a secure online payment at ethiopiaid.ie



Give over the phone on: 01 6775188

**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 DONORS & LEGACIES

Philanthropy and legacies enable opportunities for significant change. If you are considering giving in this way please contact Eufemia Solinas to discuss how you can engage with our work. Eufemia can be contacted at eufemia@ethiopiaid.ie or by calling:

(0) 1 677 5188



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

The Boat House, Bishop Street. Dublin 8 (office space kindly donated)

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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.