



From the editor:

Greeting to all Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia!!!

Welcome to our 5th newsletter, the first for 2010.

We are excited to share with you our progress since our last Newsletter.

The trainees from Bekoji have graduated at the top of their classes. They have returned to Bekoji and have started a hollow block production facility. The facility started operation in April 2010 and has already produced 1,500 blocks and has secured order for 8,500. This is significant achievement. We have selected ten candidates from Assosa in October 2009. They are now on training at OICE in Addis Ababa.

We have been reaching out to more Ethiopians to join us in our endeavor and have made some progress. We continue to learn and adjust our thinking and business model to meet the needs of the youth and their community. We are forging collaborative relationships with local and global organizations to share resources.

Our 2010 project will be a collaborative effort with a team from Gondar under the leadership of Ato Woinegus Debeb. We will be focusing on Ibbat/Addis Zemen area to select the next candidates. In the end, we measure our success by the number underprivileged young Ethiopians which we have educated, enabled and sustained to be self-sufficient.

We know our success is largely due to your continued support. We are grateful to you for enabling us. We would like to ask those who have been watching from the sideline to rise up to the challenge and work with us.

PLEASE JOIN US! LET'S EDUCATE, ENABLE, AND SUSTAIN THE YOUTH! Negesse Gutema (ngutema@comcast.net)

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE !!!

Please pledge any amount to support our cause.
Go to <http://www.yessera.org> to donate online.

YESSERA AT A GLANCE

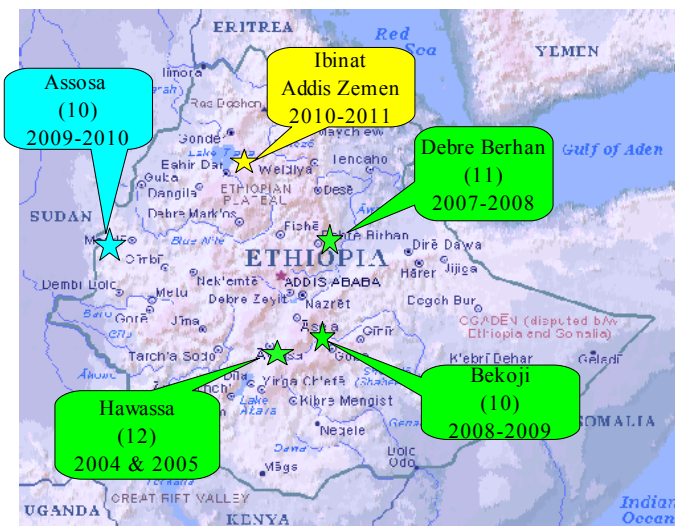
Our Mission:

Empower the Ethiopian youth to transcend limitations and realize their dreams by building their skills to benefit themselves and their communities.

Goals:

- Provide vocational training to young Ethiopians who are marginalized due to economic and social conditions;
- Seek out and establish collaborative relationship with groups and organizations with similar vision and goals.
- Establish YESSERA- Ethiopia.
- Work towards a comprehensive central training facility which will provide a broad range of vocational training and will be a hub of creative exchange among national and global communities.

Projects To-Date:



CONGRATULATIONS TO YESSERA-BEKOJI GRADUATES!!!



Abdufeta Kelil, Gemechu Anbessa, Getu Urgecha, Halima Gemedu, Samrawit Daba, Sequare Deda, Tizita Gezahegn, Wendmagn Shewaye, Wendwesen Werku, Genet Lemma.

PRODUCED THEIR FIRST 1,500 HOLLOW BLOCKS, 8,500 ON ORDER

OFF TO A GREAT START!!



WELCOME YESSERA-ASSOSA CLASS OF 2010!

YESSERA collaborated with Assosa community leaders to select 10 candidates out of over 80 applicants. The candidates have been on training since Nov.09. Robe Gari, Abdu Werku, Abdulrezak Mohammed, Bizuayehu Alemu, Hanan Mohammed, Almaz Getu, Sintayehu Abraham, Zahara Yassin, Mustefa Yusuf, Nuredin Ashadil.

RIISING UP TO THE CHALLENGE!!!



Assosa trainees at OICE with Ato Melesse Yalew, Director of OICE



Taking Turns - The role of YESSERA in reducing poverty among young Ethiopians

By Ato Solomon Retta: General Manager of DCS (Discovery Consultancy Services) and Board Member of YESSERA. This is part 2 of Ato Solomon's article. Part 1 discussed how YESSERA was formed. It appeared in the 4th issue of our newsletter.



"I believed providing the appropriate skill training will make the youth productive and self-supportive..." S. Retta

Poverty reduction is the ultimate goal of all economic development efforts and requires investing in the productivity and skills of economically and socially vulnerable groups. Investing in people is important to promote individual development and to enhance the ability to escape poverty. Skills are important means to increase income and sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

Ethiopians in the diaspora are vital business and development partners and are seen as extremely enthusiastic to contribute to the Ethiopia's growth and stability through investment, trade, business, education, and many other fields.

Moreover, the diaspora is a vehicle for exchange of knowledge and technology transfer.

YESSERA is playing an important role in providing the bridge between Ethiopians in diaspora and others who would like to help the country by providing skills training for the impoverished youth without being encumbered by political bias.

YESSERA has a strategic goal of establishing a comprehensive vocational training center. The plan is to educate and enable youth throughout Ethiopia who will then become the cornerstone for YESSERA's strategic goal. This effort will require YESSERA to continue providing young Ethiopians with vocational training while clearing the way for construction of the training facility. The vocational training being provided on an ongoing basis has proven to have ripple effects in providing economic stability for the graduates, their families, and their communities. YESSERA also expects the enabled youth to give back to their community by providing on-the-job training for youth in their respective communities and enabling them to be self-sufficient. This model will allow YESSERA to count on its trainees to become the trainers.

The model which YESSERA is implementing is based on educating the youth in vocational field of their choosing, enabling them to start a business, and sustaining their growth by providing counseling, coaching, mentoring and tracking their progress. Enabling and sustaining the youth are the success factors for YESSERA's model. Moreover, YESSERA's model is based on the premises that the graduates from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds learn YESSERA's vision and mission to bring about changes in overall attitude towards each other. While on vocational training, they live and work together in peace, harmony and oneness and become role models to others. My dream is that one day the graduates of YESSERA will become change agents in the country and make a significant contribution to eliminate poverty.

Yes, We can make a difference!!!

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1. Go to www.yessera.org and donate on line
2. Send funds to the following address
YESSERA.
P. O. Box 4242 Austin, TX 78765
Tel / Fax. (512) 302-4222
3. Consider adding YESSERA to your company's charitable contribution list and matching grant list

YESSERA is a nonprofit organization.

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Please send comments and questions to info@yessera.org.

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