



ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND

# PRESS RELEASE

## THE ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND SECRETARIAT HAS STARTED OPERATIONS

Addis Ababa: 07 May 2019

The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF), is a signature initiative of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, which was launched in August 2018 with the appointment of the EDTF Advisory Council (AC).

The EDTF Secretariat, which is headed by an Executive Director and initially includes a Program Design Specialist and a Communication Specialist has officially started operations in Addis Ababa.

The Secretariat, will be responsible for the daily administration and management of EDTF, implementation of policies of the Board, development of criteria and standards for project selection and funding, reviewing and vetting projects and EDTF Implementing Organizations that will be submitted to the Board for approval, monitor and report on the implementation of approved projects, public engagement and media relations on behalf of EDTF and identifying potential funding sources, among others.

The Chairman of the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund, Professor Alemayehu G. Mariam remarked, *"We recently made final selection of the secretariat staff after a rigorous recruitment process conducted jointly by EDTF Advisory Council and UNDP. I sincerely appreciate UNDP for the generous and substantial two-years grant support for the EDTF Secretariat.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to affirm to all the Ethiopian Diasporas that one hundred percent of all donations will be used to finance projects. No money from individual Diaspora contribution will be used for the secretariats administrative, management or related purposes, which is very unusual for operation of any non-profit organization."*

It is to be recalled that the Friends of the EDTF Inc. was established in the United States as an independent non-profit organization with the mission of directly engaging the global Ethiopian Diaspora from all walks of life to support the mission of the EDTF in Ethiopia of improving the lives of disadvantaged Ethiopians by funding critical socio-economic projects.

For further information, please contact:

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## About EDTF

The call to donate a dollar-a-day by all Ethiopian Diasporas came from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, on July 08, 2019. This was followed by his appointment of the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) Advisory Council (AC). The purpose of the AC is to function as a structured link between the EDTF and the diaspora community for a united dynamism against poverty

EDTF is a non-profit organization established with the goal of achieving a resilient solution for Ethiopia's disadvantaged groups and communities and contribute towards the legitimate aspirations of all Ethiopians, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, language, region, gender, political views or any other factors. EDTF neither advances nor promotes any partisan political agenda and is solely focused on its mission of raising awareness and funds to finance and assist poor and disadvantaged people of Ethiopia. The Fund aims to finance projects that meet critical and selected needs based on their potential to make the highest positive impact on groups and communities in Ethiopia in such areas as health, education, water, sanitation facilities and rehabilitation of persons with disability, agricultural development, technology, women empowerment, youth, financial inclusion, small scale entrepreneurship and other income and employment generating projects.

Responding to the PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed's call for action and in support of his message of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, unity and peace, the Ethiopian Diaspora has enthusiastically accepted his challenge and, the EDTF has continued to grow with donations made through the website wire transfers, bank deposits to the EDTF Citibank and Commercial Bank of Ethiopia EDTF Accounts, PayPal and GoFundMe totaling USD 4 million from about 21,000 donors in 77 countries since 22nd October 2018. The Trust Fund highly appreciates not only the contribution of financial resources but also the time and intellectual expertise being provided by the Diaspora.

EDTF presently is establishing different EDTF Chapters globally. As these Chapters are entirely volunteer-based initiative, it is the free will of all Ethiopian Diasporas to join one of the chapters in their locality or open an EDTF Chapter per the guiding principle of the EDTF.

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The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has given EDTF a two-year grant to fund the cost of the EDTF Secretariat in Addis Ababa. The UNDP grant is an affirmation of the long-term success of EDTF.

EDTF is neutral with respect to political views, opinions or orientations. EDTF neither advances nor promotes any political agenda. EDTF is keenly focused on its mission of raising awareness and funds to support and finance critical socio-economic projects in Ethiopia. EDTF fully respects the rights of free expression of its members, donors and Ethiopians at large.

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