



ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND

PRESS RELEASE

THE ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND (EDTF) AWARDED ITS FIRST GRANT TO SUCCESSFUL PROJECT APPLICANTS

PROJECTS WORTH MORE THAN BR152 MILLION ARE TO RECEIVE EDTF FUNDING

Addis Ababa: 21 February 2020

Following its Call for Proposals, the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) had received over 400 project proposals from local NGOs, civil society groups, academic institutions and government sector offices out of which some 240 were selected for further and closer review. EDTF mobilized capable professionals from all parts of the world to serve as volunteers and review the unusually wide range of social and economic development projects believed to make differences in the lives of poor and disadvantaged people.

Ato Zafu Eyessuswork Zafu, Chairperson of the EDTF Board of Directors stated that “following thorough review processes, which included technical, organizational capacity and budget review 22 projects were considered “Fundable”. Out of those so considered, 5 were selected for award on **6th February 2020 at the UNECA Conference Hall** while the remaining 17 projects were to be further reviewed by the Secretariat and the Board to ensure that they fulfilled certain requirements brought out by the on-site organizational capacity assessment and budget review commissioned by EDTF before final Grant Agreements were to be signed”. EDTF was expected to invest more than Br152 million in implementing the 22 projects in the coming 2 years.

Ato Zafu continued “...the selected projects are expected to be implemented in different parts of Ethiopia. The projects are expected to benefit tens of thousands of Ethiopians in disadvantaged communities by way of increased access to education, health, water, employment opportunities and other services that will improve their lives and livelihoods”.

The event was attended by representatives of government, prominent community leaders, senior officers of leading private sector companies, civil society organizations, diaspora community representatives, Board Directors of the EDTF and members of the Advisory Council of FEDTF from USA.

Professor Alemayehu Gebremariam, Chairperson of the FEDTF Advisory Council, said “the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund expresses its immense gratitude to the Ethiopia diaspora who made history by responding to the

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call of the country's Prime Minister to Ethiopians in the diaspora for a gift of "one-dollar-a-day". They showed great commitment not only in making financial contributions but also their valuable time, skill and accumulated knowledge as volunteers. We believe that the momentum that brought us to this grand funding event will keep us moving to the next highest level where EDTF becomes a major player in tackling poverty, exclusion and promoting Ethiopia's overall development."

Some of the project intervention areas of FEDTF/EDTF funded projects are:

- Building the Capacity of Special Needs Education to Integrate Children with Disabilities in the School System
- Early Childhood Care and Education Services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Enhancing Educational Provision through Improving Children Learning Environment
- Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion
- Promotion of Safe Water Supply, Hygiene & Sanitation for Hard-to-reach Communities Using Renewable Energy

The impressive Event was followed by a sumptuous dinner/reception that was generously hosted by Sheraton Addis. In the opinion of practically all those that attended the meeting and the reception, the FEDTF was the gift of the Ethiopian diaspora to the Ethiopian People irrespective of ethnicity, religion or political orientation. And as such, its symbolism was itself of great value and significance at a time when the country needed it most.

Currently, FEDTF has 26,000 individual contributors spread over 93 countries, 48 Chapters, hundreds of volunteers and relentless members of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council who are committed to making EDTF the most transparent, accountable and effective development actor in Ethiopia.

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