



ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND (EDTF) BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES SHORTLISTED PROJECT PROPOSALS

**Addis Ababa: 31 December 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (BoD-EDTF) is pleased to announce the completion of project proposal reviews. The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund Secretariat (EDTF-Sec) coordinated the project review process following receipt of over 300 project proposals in mid-September 2019.

The 22 shortlisted projects identified below will undergo a final implementation capacity assessment and budget review focusing on organizational resources, management and effectiveness to deliver on proposed project outcomes.

Project proposals were reviewed by volunteer Ethiopian experts in a variety of fields recruited from Ethiopia and the global Ethiopian Diaspora community. These experts were organized in 26 Project Review Teams (PRTs), each team consisting of panels of 3 members. The PRTs reviewed and ranked each proposal according to criteria set for proposal submissions. After the PRTs performed a full review of 242 proposals, 68 were found to meet the established criteria, out of which the Secretariat presented 22 projects to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval.

Among the key proposal evaluation criteria included are sustainability of the proposed project, potential impact, relevance, scalability, innovation and creativity, cost efficiency (value for money), accountability, transparency and communication. Regional equity was also taken into consideration in deciding the short-listed applicants.

Ato Zafu Eyesuswork Zafu, Chairman of EDTF Board of Directors said, “Thanks to the relentless effort of the Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Volunteers and the Secretariat, the initial project review process has been completed successfully and qualified projects that meet EDTF’s publicly announced project selection criteria and scoring system have been shortlisted. These approved projects will be advanced for an assessment by an independent consultant for their Organizational Capacity and Budget Proposal before the final grantees are identified”.

Ato Zafu affirmed, “It is with full confidence that I confirm to all stakeholders that all the donated funds will be fairly allocated among projects selected through a transparent and comprehensive review process for its critical need, project design, practicality of implementation and financial soundness”.

For further information, please contact:

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A total of 4,000,000 USD is allocated to finance projects in the first round of funding. The minimum and maximum amount that will be granted per project is approximately ETB 6,400,000 (USD \$200,000) and ETB 11,200,000 (USD \$350,000) respectively.

Final project awards will be announced following the signing of project implementation contracts with grantees on the 30th of January 2020.

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## About EDTF

The call to donate a dollar-a-day by all Ethiopians in the Diaspora 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) and the EDTF Board of Directors EDTF-BoD.

The EDTF Board of Directors is the apex governance body. It comprises of eleven persons, drawn from the Ethiopian government, Diaspora and Civil Society. Whereas the 18 members of EDTF-AC is to mobilize the Ethiopian Diaspora Community in the United States and globally to make financial contributions to the EDTF Account on a timely and sustained basis to ensure the realization of the EDTF objectives.

EDTF operates as Friends of EDTF, 501c3 Tax ID: 83-2100439, Inc. and is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization in the United States established with the goal of raising funds to support social projects in specific critical areas in 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.

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

All donation to EDTF are committed to projects. No EDTF donation is used for administrative or related purposes.

To date, EDTF has collected USD\$ 5.571 million from 25,702 donors living in 93 countries supported by 46 Chapters globally. Diaspora Ethiopians are free to set up their own chapter by completing an online application available at the EDTF website.

EDTF is an equal opportunity organization dedicated to serving all Ethiopians without regard to race, 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.

Donations to EDTF can be made through the website, wire transfers, bank deposits to the EDTF Citibank and Commercial Bank of Ethiopia EDTF Accounts.

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