



ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA TRUST FUND

# Press Release

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## Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund Inaugurates Its First Project

### The Early Childhood Care and Education Center Funded by EDTF will serve 400 orphan and vulnerable children

22 April 2021, Addis Ababa

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Center built for orphans and vulnerable children was inaugurated in Kolfe Keranio Sub-City, Addis Ababa on 22 April 2021. The ECCE was funded by the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF). The inauguration ceremony event was attended by representatives of EDTF, City and Woreda officials, the Hiwot Integrated Development Association leadership and staff (EDTF's implementation partner), religious leaders as well as residents of Woreda 6 who will benefit from ECCE's services.

Although early childhood care and education is critically important for the intellectual and psychological development of children, these services are not adequately provided in Ethiopia. A report issued by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that more than 50% of children in Ethiopia do not have access to pre-school education for a variety of reasons, including the unavailability of early childhood care and education centers and facilities. Consistent with the United Nations sustainable development goals, access to quality education is one of EDTF's priority intervention areas targeted to improve the lives of Ethiopians living in poverty. EDTF has donated 9,065,742 Ethiopian Birr for the construction of the ECCE center and the implementation of the integrated care and education services which will benefit children and their families. The construction of the ECCE was started in October 2020 and completed within a relatively short time considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ECCE Center will provide integrated early childhood education and care for 400 orphans and vulnerable children including pre-school education, school meals, health, and psychological monitoring and support services. Sister Tibebe Mako, Executive Director of Hiwot Integrated Development Association explained that most of the children enrolled in the Center suffer from various forms of disabilities and health impediments. In addition to contributing to the mental, physical, and psychological development of the children, the Center allows parents and guardians to leave their children in a safe environment to engage in productive work to support their families.

The EDTF Board of Directors sincerely thanks all donors who responded to the 'one dollar a day' which has resulted in funding for the construction and implementation of the ECCE Center and similar development projects. We also thank EDTF's leadership and volunteers as well as government and non-government partners who contributed to the successful completion of this important project. Our deepest appreciation and gratitude also goes to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Ethiopia) for its generous support in financing the operation of the EDTF secretariat in Addis Ababa. EDTF calls for the continued and revitalized support of the Ethiopian diaspora community and development partners to improve the lives of Ethiopians in need.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund is a gift of the Ethiopian Diaspora to the Ethiopian people.

**The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund**

[www.ethiopiaintrustfund.org](http://www.ethiopiaintrustfund.org)

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