HOPE for CHILDREN in ETHIOPIA

Newsletter for the month September [adapted and abridged]

Administrative NEWS

The Organization is about to celebrate the 25th anniversary

Hope for Children in Ethiopia Relief and Development Association (HCE-RDA) will celebrate its 25th anniversary on November 26 to 28, 2026. Over the years, HCE-RDA has implemented various projects across various operational areas, significantly impacting the lives of children, youth, and women. The anniversary event will underscore the achievements and also provide a platform to share future goals and aspiration.

The celebration will bring together stakeholders, partners (donors), and community members to reflect on the organisation's progress and discuss new initiatives aimed at further improving the well-being of those they serve. Success stories include former children who benefited from education and sponsorship programs and have become professionals such as medical doctors, managers, and media experts. Additionally, youth who were once homeless have become self-reliant role models, and women who once felt hopeless have transformed their households' lives.
The jubilee will be officially celebrated with partners, donors, and key stakeholders over three days. On November 26, more than 140 vocational trainees will graduate, marking a milestone for the community. On November 28, a partners' discussion will be held to plan the future road-map for collaboration between HCE-RDA and its partners. This event will showcase the resilience and determination of those who have overcome adversity, emphasising the collective effort required for continued growth and opportunity.
HCE-RDA invites all partners, stakeholders, and donors to join the celebration to acknowledge past successes and set the stage for innovative initiatives aimed at driving positive change. Together, they aim to raise an environment where individuals thrive and contribute to a brighter future.

Pre-school education and sponsorship program

Sharing holiday burden with “families of children“

The Ethiopian New Year was celebrated with colourful festivities, and students have resumed their educations. Thirty new children from impoverished homes were registered in the nursery program, backed by the district women children and the social affairs office.
Furthermore, seventy children attended in the new academic year, and received essential supplies to help them continue their studies.



The charity also lessened the load on the families due to holidays and some expenses of their children by covering some of the costs of the holiday by distributing wheat flour and edible oil. To further support these families, the charity hopes to organize income-generating activities to help sustain the children's education.

Overall, HCE regularly shares the families' difficulties as a method to show love and care for both the children and their families. These initiatives promote educational stability and foster community resilience. HCE aims to create a sustainable environment where children can thrive academically and personally by empowering families with resources and opportunities.



New-Life Program

Spending time in "new life girls home"

The executive director of the organisation dedicated significant time to spending the holiday season with seventeen girls residing at the New Life Girl's Home shelter. These girls come from extremely vulnerable backgrounds, having endured labor exploitation, severe abuse, life on the streets, and exposure to the commercial sex trade. The shelter provides a safe haven where their basic needs such as food, shelter, and emotional support are met consistently. In addition, the organisation arranges transportation fee for the girls to attend vocational training programs, equipping them with practical skills to foster economic independence.

The director's presence during the holiday was aimed at creating a warm, family-like atmosphere to help the girls feel valued, safe, and comfortable despite their challenging pasts. HCE has rescued many more young girls from similar adverse conditions, using the shelter as a vital bridge to reconnect them with their communities. This re-connection is crucial in helping the girls build a new sense of identity and belonging.

By acquiring new skills through vocational training, the girls gain the ability to generate income, which significantly improves their living conditions and breaks the cycle of exploitation. This empowerment initiative goes beyond economic independence; it nurtures their self-esteem and fosters a strong sense of community and belonging.



“NIGAT“ Project

Closing up session of “NIGAT Project“

The "NIGAT" Project officially closed on September 24, 2026, at Stay Easy Plus Hotel after four years of implementation. During this time, it significantly impacted the lives of many younger and older child domestic workers (CDWs) through various interventions aimed at improving their well-being. The project’s success has paved the way for future initiatives, with stakeholders exploring new opportunities to build on the foundation established by NIGAT.

The project brought significant changes in the attitudes and behaviour of CDW employers and their children through recurring awareness creation training. It categorised domestic workers into two major groups: those below 15 years old and those above. CDWs under 15 received formal education, while the older group attended vocational training designed to help them transition from domestic work to self-reliance.

Additionally, some older CDWs were given financial, technical, and material support to engage in various income-generating activities. This comprehensive approach empowered individuals and raised a sense of community among them, aiming to break the cycle of poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods for future generations.

Over the four years, the project successfully fostered strong collaboration with key stakeholders and local government offices. It improved the situation of CDWs and increased community awareness about their rights and protection, ensuring continued support and development for this vulnerable group.

PAWANKA Project

Girls received educational resources

The Chencha community has culturally not allowed girls to attend school to the same extent as boys. Traditionally, girls have been expected to stay at home and serve their families rather than pursue formal education. However, a new initiative is actively encouraging girls to enrol in school and receive formal education, emphasising the importance of equal educational opportunities.

This shift is crucial for empowering young women by providing them access to personal and professional growth opportunities. The community aims to build a more equitable society that benefits all members by prioritising education for girls.

As part of this initiative, program coordinators selected 100 girls from the poorest families in the community to participate. Many of these girls come from households affected by challenges such as single parenthood and HIV/AIDS. The program provides these girls with essential educational materials and facilitates their enrolment into schools, creating a supportive and nurturing environment despite their difficult circumstances.

The community is making a significant effort to break the cycle of poverty and ensure a brighter future for the next generation by investing in the education of these disadvantaged girls,. This initiative marks a meaningful cultural change, promoting the idea that girls deserve the same educational opportunities as boys within the Chencha community.



Distribution of resources to girls at the branch office

Women Empowerment “Church of Sweden“

Resources distributed to orphan and vulnerable children

HCE, with support from the Church of Sweden, helps orphaned and vulnerable children stay enrolled in formal education. About 100 students from various grades benefit from this program, which prevents urban migration and trafficking. The initiative not only improves educational opportunities but also fosters a sense of community and belonging among the children. HCE empowers these young individuals by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Their families also participate in awareness training that highlights the importance of education and encourages them to send their children to school instead of exposing them to child labor, exploitation, or abuse. This approach protects the children's well-being and strengthens family bonds by increasing parental involvement in their children’s education.



Distribution of academic resources to orphan and vulnerable children

Second Chance project (Chencha and Konso Operational Area)

The second chance class has commenced

The second chance class has commenced in both operational areas, successfully identifying and registering over 875 out-of-school and drop-out children. This was achieved through collaboration with the Zonal and District Education Offices, utilising door-to-door site visits to find the most suitable beneficiaries for the program. The initiative's goal is to equip these children with the necessary skills and support to reintegrate into the education system effectively.

Facilitators have prepared their classrooms and gathered essential resources to ensure the learning process begins smoothly. They have conducted baseline assessments to evaluate each child's current literacy and numeracy skills, which help in tracking individual progress throughout the program. This approach enhances the learning experience as well as strengthens the relationship between facilitators and students.

As the program advances, regular evaluations will be conducted to refine teaching methods and ensure personalised attention for each student, promoting academic success. Additionally, program coordinators have distributed essential educational materials to all attending students, further supporting their learning journey. Facilitators have expressed confidence that student performance in this academic year will surpass that of previous years due to the improved resources and custom-made teaching strategies.



Chencha Second Chance Classes



Konso Second Chance Classes

Restoration of Biodiversity

Ten Thousand Seeds were planted

The community planted ten thousand indigenous tree seeds in the Hope reserve areas, timing the planting with the arrival of seasonal rains to ensure better growth conditions. Around 40 to 60 community members, including older people, participated with great enthusiasm and joy. The event was lively, filled with laughter and storytelling, reflecting a strong community spirit. […]