



ROOTS  
ETHIOPIA

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING STRONG ETHIOPIAN FAMILIES  
THROUGH EDUCATION AND JOB CREATION

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



*The resilience I've witnessed in Ethiopian communities has taught me that hope is not merely an emotion—it's a powerful catalyst for action and it creates lasting change."*

Dear Friends and Supporters of Roots Ethiopia,

As we reflect on another remarkable year of impact and growth, I am filled with profound gratitude for the community that makes our work possible.



Your steadfast support has enabled us to continue our mission of creating sustainable, locally-driven change throughout Ethiopia.

After all these years, I remain convinced that the most meaningful solutions aren't imported from outside—they're already present in the hearts and minds of Ethiopian communities. Our privilege is simply to help nurture these seeds of change.

The stories you'll read in this report represent more than just programs or statistics—they represent lives changed, communities strengthened, and all of our futures brightened.

I am particularly moved by how our team has expanded support for children with disabilities and responded swiftly to families in crisis, ensuring that our commitment to education remains accessible to all.

I look to the future with both optimism and determination. The challenges ahead are significant, but so is our collective resolve. The extraordinary team in Ethiopia, led by our dedicated Country Director Mohammed, continues to demonstrate that with compassion, innovation, and perseverance, lasting change is possible.

*Meghan*





# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I present to you the 2024 Annual Impact Report of Roots Ethiopia. This year has been one of remarkable progress, collective achievement, and transformative impact, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, government partners, local communities, and all like-minded organizations that share our mission. Your trust, collaboration, and steadfast belief in our work have enabled us to bring meaningful and lasting change to the lives of thousands across Southern Ethiopia.



At the heart of this success lies the dedication, energy, and team spirit of the Roots Ethiopia team. I am deeply grateful to each member of our staff, whose professionalism, empathy, and innovation have been instrumental in delivering excellent and life-changing outcomes across our program areas.

In 2024, we strengthened the foundations of education by improving the capacity of under-resourced schools, delivering essential resources and capacity-building support that are equipping students and teachers with the tools they need to succeed. We created pathways for disadvantaged children to access quality education, recognizing that every child deserves a fair start in life, regardless of their circumstances.

Our women's self-help group initiatives have empowered poor families to improve their socio-economic standing, creating ripple effects of change within households and communities. We took significant strides in supporting children with disabilities by enhancing their access to inclusive education and skills training, ensuring that no child is left behind. In times of crisis, we stood by families affected by emergencies, providing critical nutritional support that safeguarded lives and helped children stay connected to their education.

These achievements are not just numbers or stories, they are real and lasting changes, made possible through trust, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to our shared vision.

As we look ahead, we are inspired and guided by our new multi-year Organizational Strategic Plan. We know there is more to be done, and we are ready to do it, with even greater ambition and resolve. Our belief in the wisdom and potential of local communities continues to define and drive us. "Local Ideas for Lasting Change" is not just our motto, it is our truth.

With deepest thanks,

**Mohammed Jemal, PhD. Country Director, Roots Ethiopia**





## ABOUT US

Roots Ethiopia works with communities in Ethiopia to turn local ideas into lasting change. We work together to improve schools, educate children, and enable livelihoods.

## WHERE WE WORK

Roots Ethiopia works within the southern and central regional states of Ethiopia. We work in areas that lack quality school options, have unreliable access to schooling, and have a vulnerable economy.



### MISSION:

Supporting community identified solutions for job creation and education in Ethiopia.



### VISION:

A world where Ethiopian communities thrive through self-determined pathways out of poverty.



### VALUES:

We believe in local ideas for lasting change, community leadership, and sustainable solutions that honor Ethiopian wisdom and experience.



# WHAT WE DO...



**EMPOWER  
WOMEN**



**IMPROVE  
SCHOOLS**



**SUPPORT  
FAMILIES IN  
CRISIS**



**PROMOTE  
QUALITY  
EDUCATION FOR  
CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES**



**EDUCATE  
CHILDREN**

## WE HAVE REACHED:

- 30 primary and 17 pre-primary schools through our school improvement program
- 250 children from disadvantaged families through the school sponsorship program
- 1500 women through the self-help entrepreneur (SHE) Program
- 36 children with disabilities empowered through our special needs education support program in two schools
- Over 2000 families in crisis through the emergency support program



# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW





# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## KEY RESULTS





2

Primary school reading rooms renovated



2

Primary school libraries renovated and equipped



2

Primary school Laboratories renovated and equipped



7

Pre-primary schools received support through classroom renovation and the provision of learning materials.



106

Teachers and facilitators trained



4

Primary schools received sport materials



1274

Grade 8 students in 27 schools attended tutorial class organized by Roots Ethiopia

30

primary and 17 pre-  
primary schools with  
better learning  
conditions

27,514

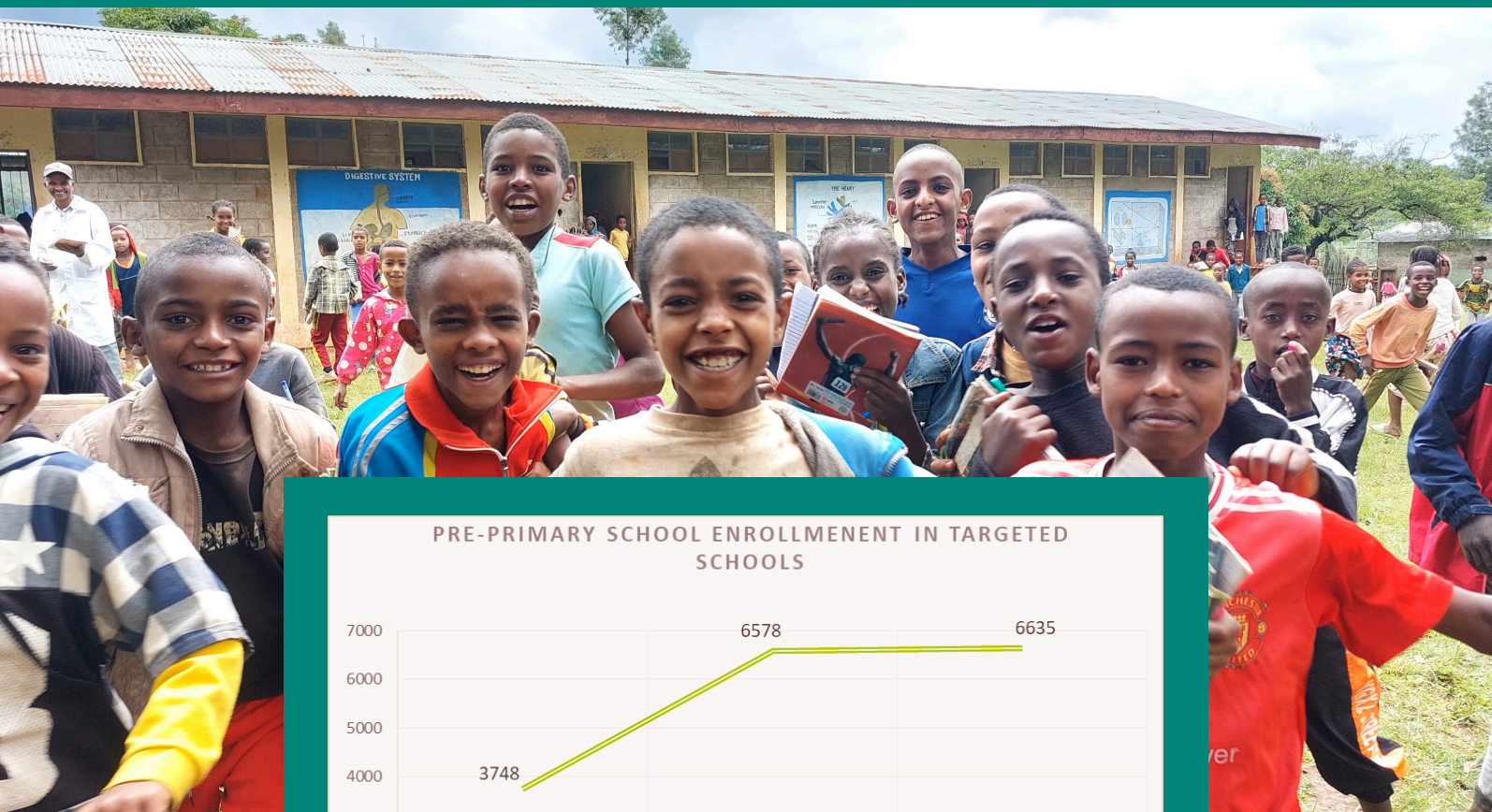
students in supported  
primary schools have  
access to enhanced  
educational  
opportunities

74%

passing rate  
among tutorial attended  
students

91%

passing rate among grade 1-7 students  
in supported primary schools





"With Roots Ethiopia's generous support, our school has experienced a significant increase in student enrollment. The addition of a well-equipped library and modern laboratories has enriched the learning environment, fostering academic growth and inspiring students. We are deeply grateful for the positive impact RE has had on our education and future."

## **MR. DESALEGN GIZAW**

**(Woremuma P. School  
Director)**





# SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## KEY RESULTS



**218**

Children from disadvantaged families are supported to start school, stay in school, and succeed

**171**

Students have successfully transitioned to the next grade level

**22**

Students transitioned to Secondary education

## KEY SUPPORT PROVIDED



Educational Materials



School Uniforms



Tuition Fees



Food Support

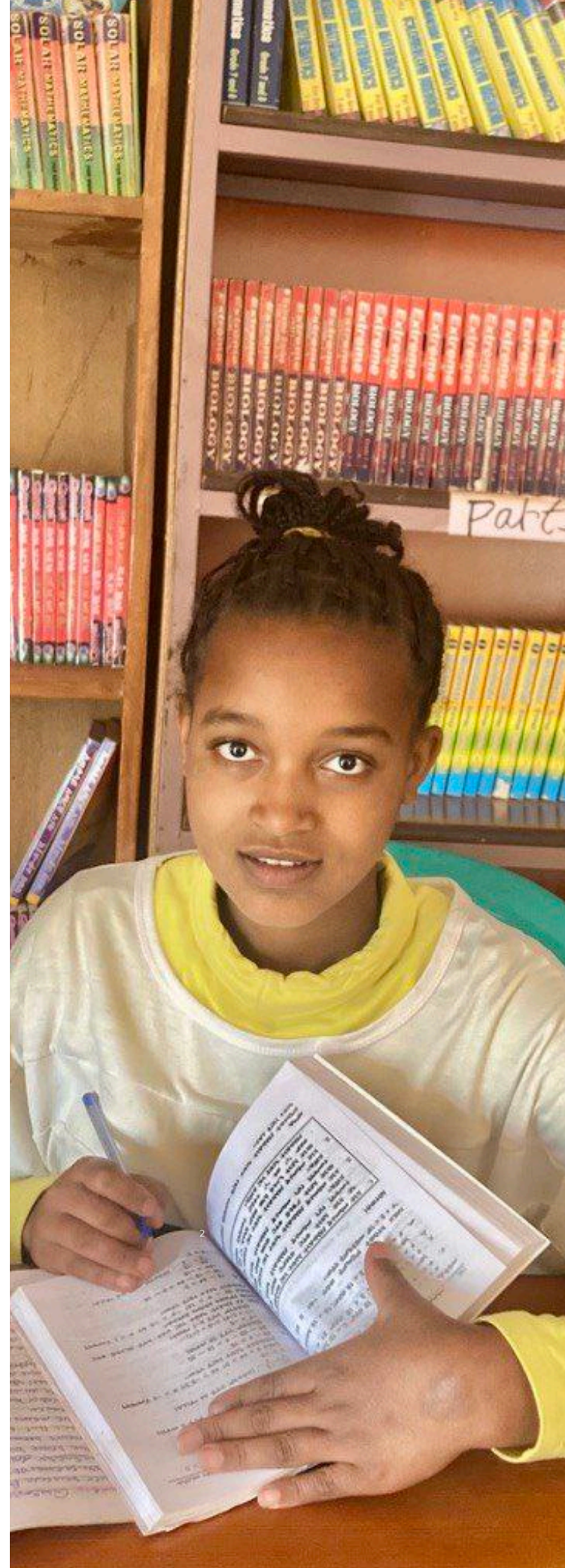


Casual Clothes



## MEET HIWOT

"Thanks to Roots Ethiopia's incredible support, I dedicated myself to my studies and proudly passed the 8th-grade Ministry exam with excellent marks."



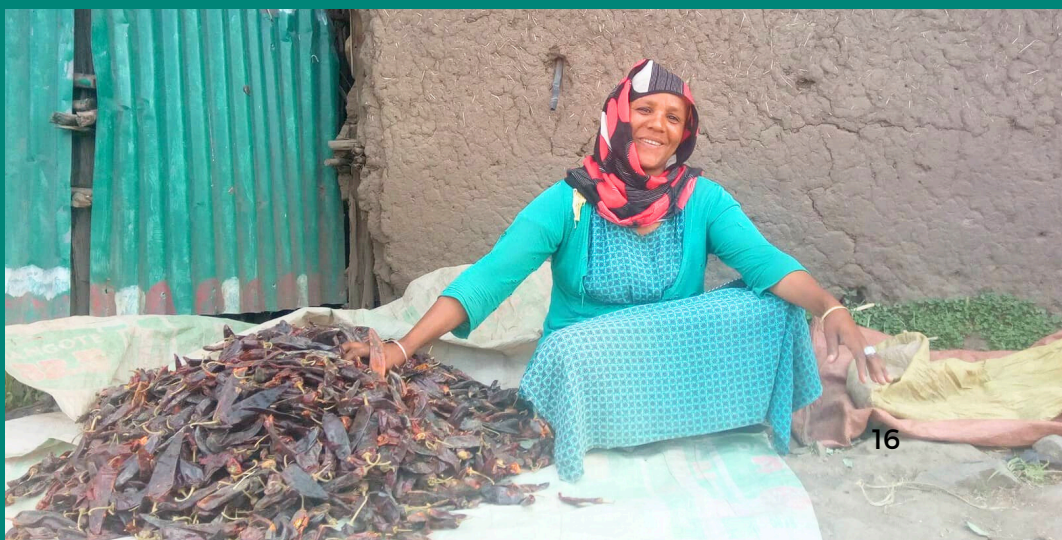
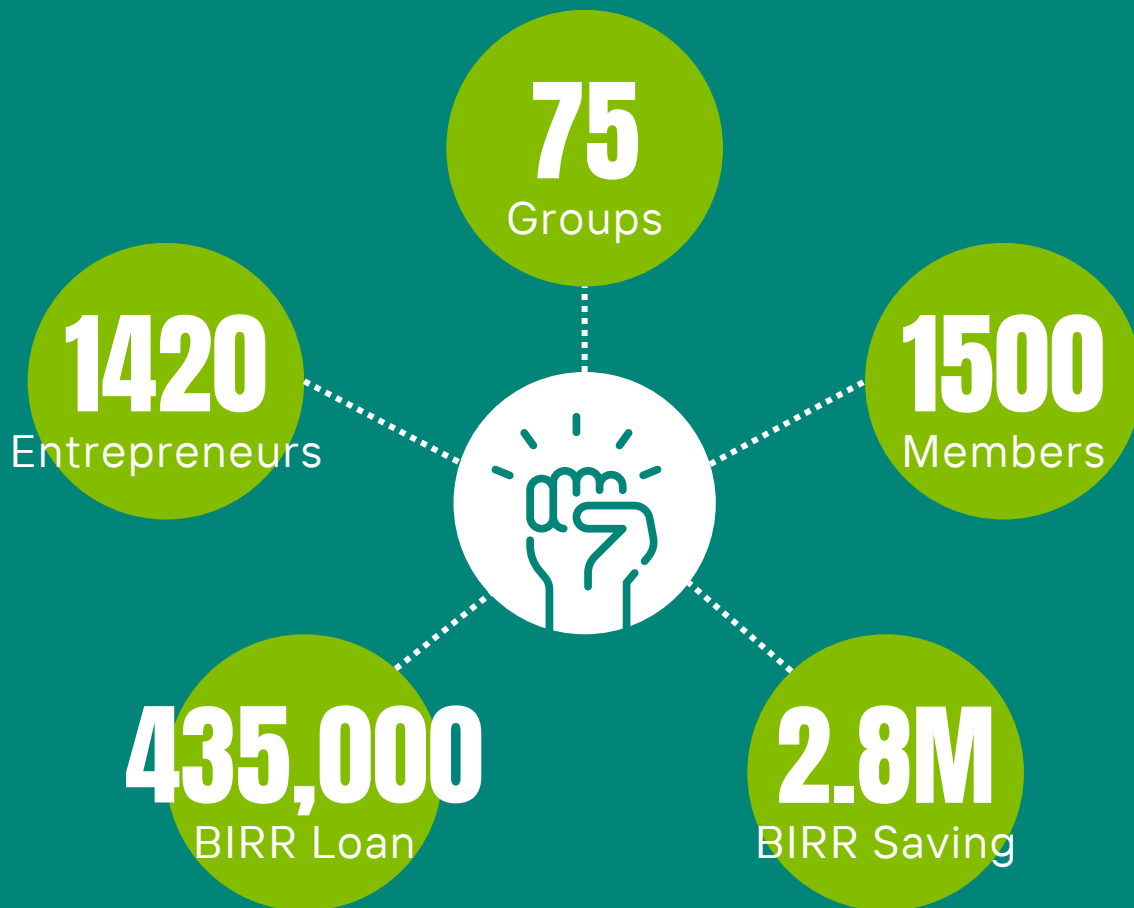




# SELF-HELP ENTREPRENEURS / WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

## KEY RESULTS







"We are deeply grateful to Roots Ethiopia for their unwavering support. They have empowered us with the knowledge and skills to improve our lives and secure a better future for our children."

**ASTER**

**Member of Lemlem saving group**





# CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

## KEY RESULTS





2

Schools with Special Needs Education



6

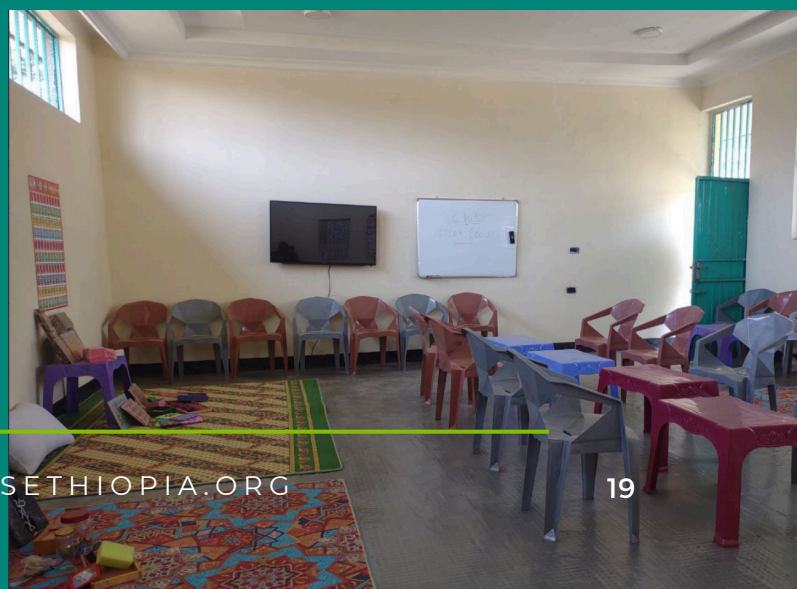
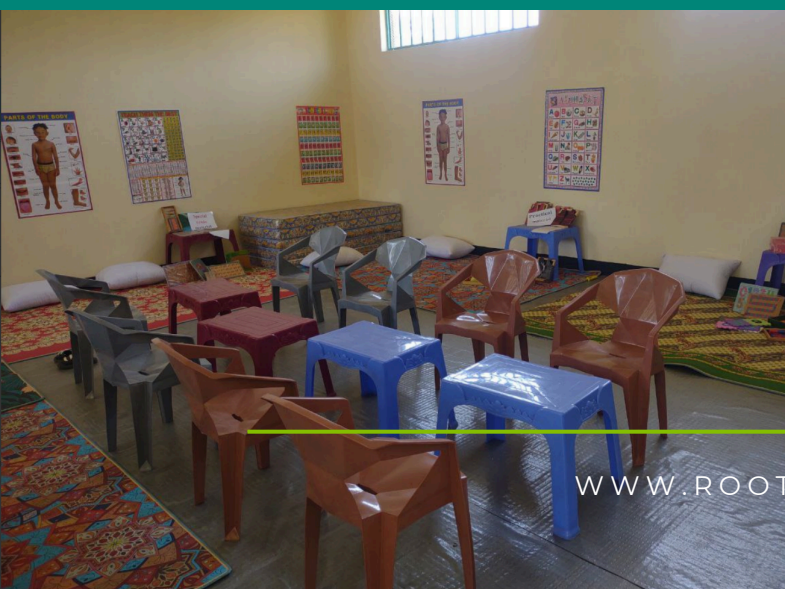
Special needs Education Facilitators



36

Children With Disability attending in the Schools

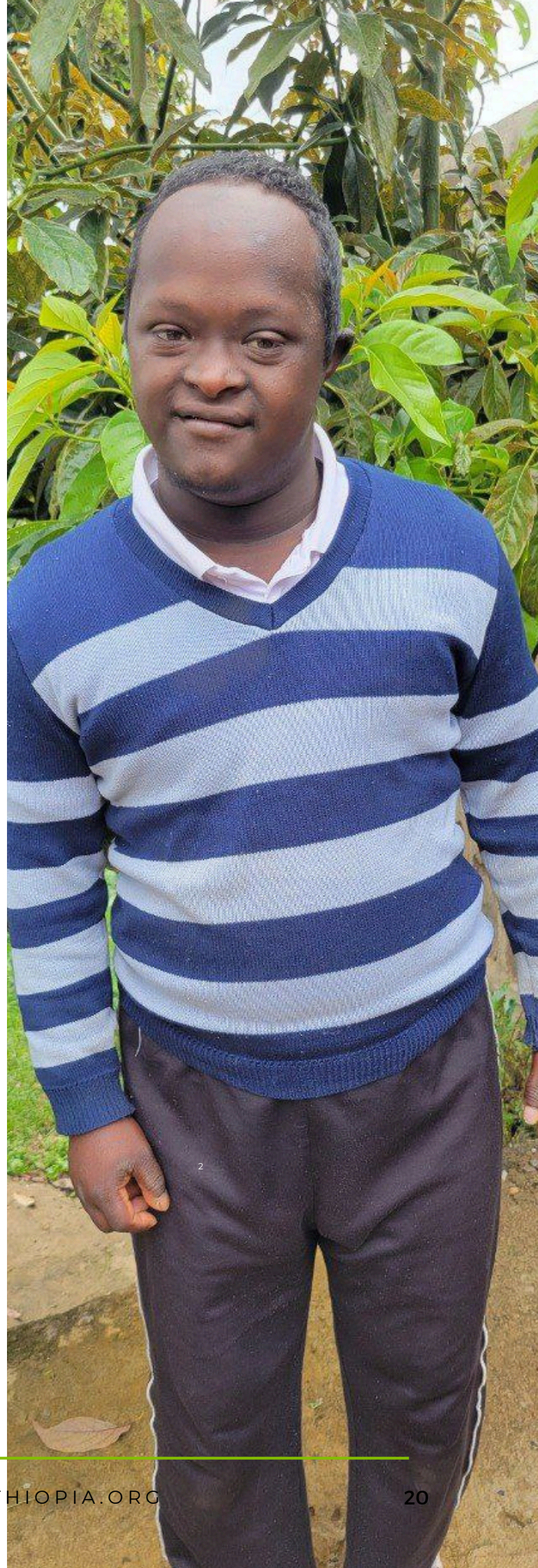
Roots Ethiopia Center for Children with Disability built by Roots Ethiopia in cooperation with the Halaba Town community.





## MEET ABENEZER

Abenezer, the third child in his family, attends the Haile Bubamo SNE class supported by Roots Ethiopia. Despite a childhood diagnosis of intellectual disabilities, his academic performance improved significantly after joining the SNE class, surpassing his classmates. This progress led to his transition into a regular classroom in 2024.







# HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT PROGRAM

## KEY RESULTS



# KEY SUPPORT PROVIDED

Emergency support for drought and Malaria epidemic crisis.

**1,176** Families in crisis reached

**175,000 KG** Corn distributed

**7000+** Children benefitted

**2,765,500 ETB** Amount of cash provided





Even after spending all I had on my children's malaria treatment, they weren't getting better due to lack of food. Begging was my only option if Roots Ethiopia didn't step in. Thankfully, their support allowed us to overcome this crisis.

## BELAYNESH HANDAMO

resident of Usimancho  
kebele



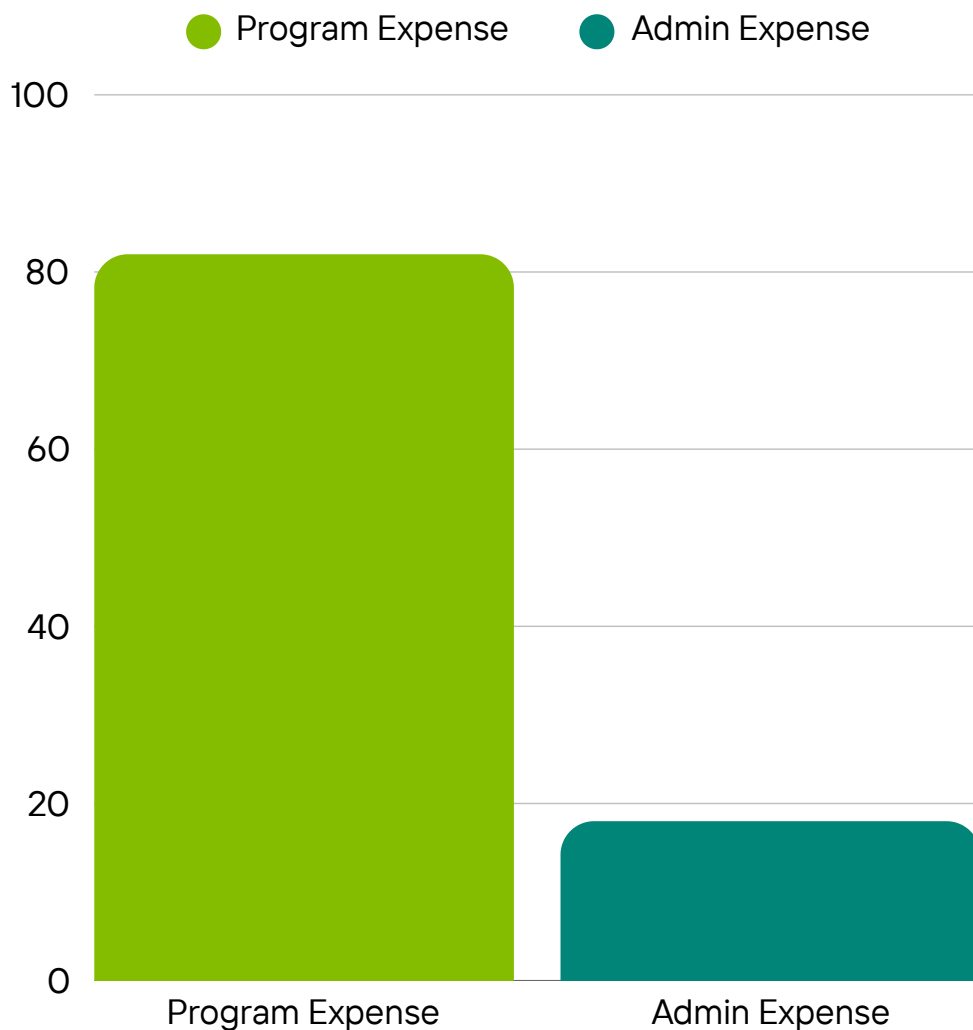
# FINANCIAL UPDATE



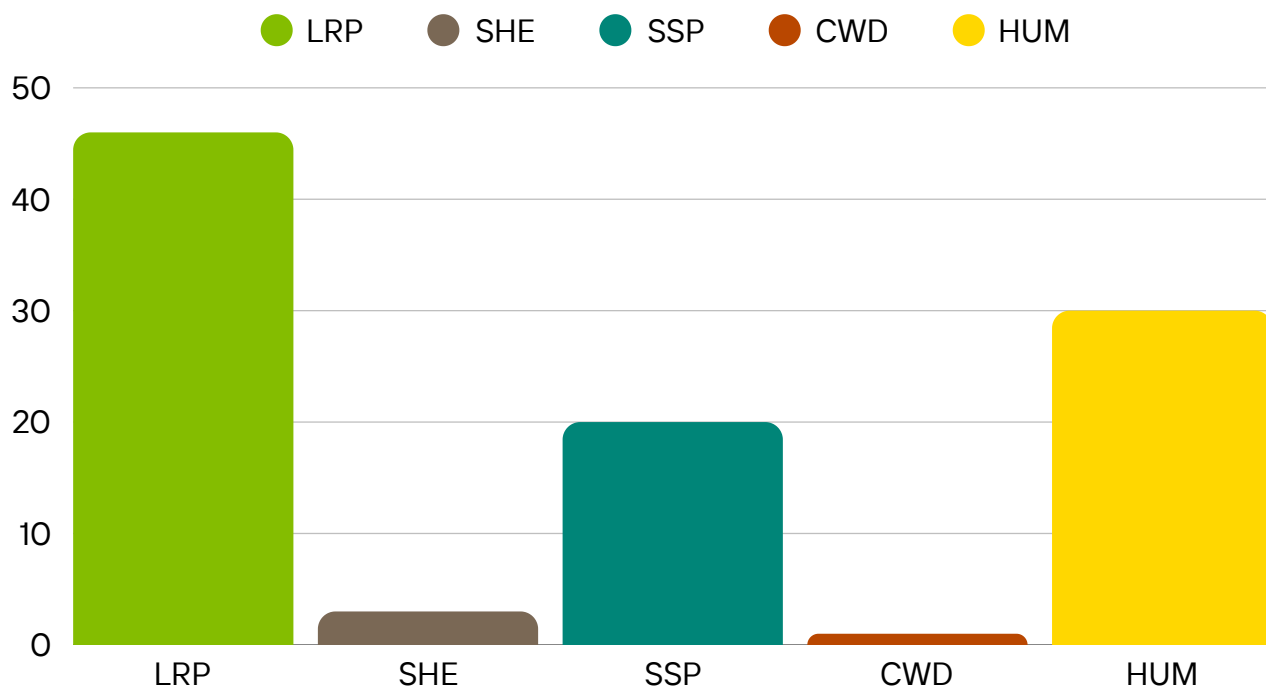
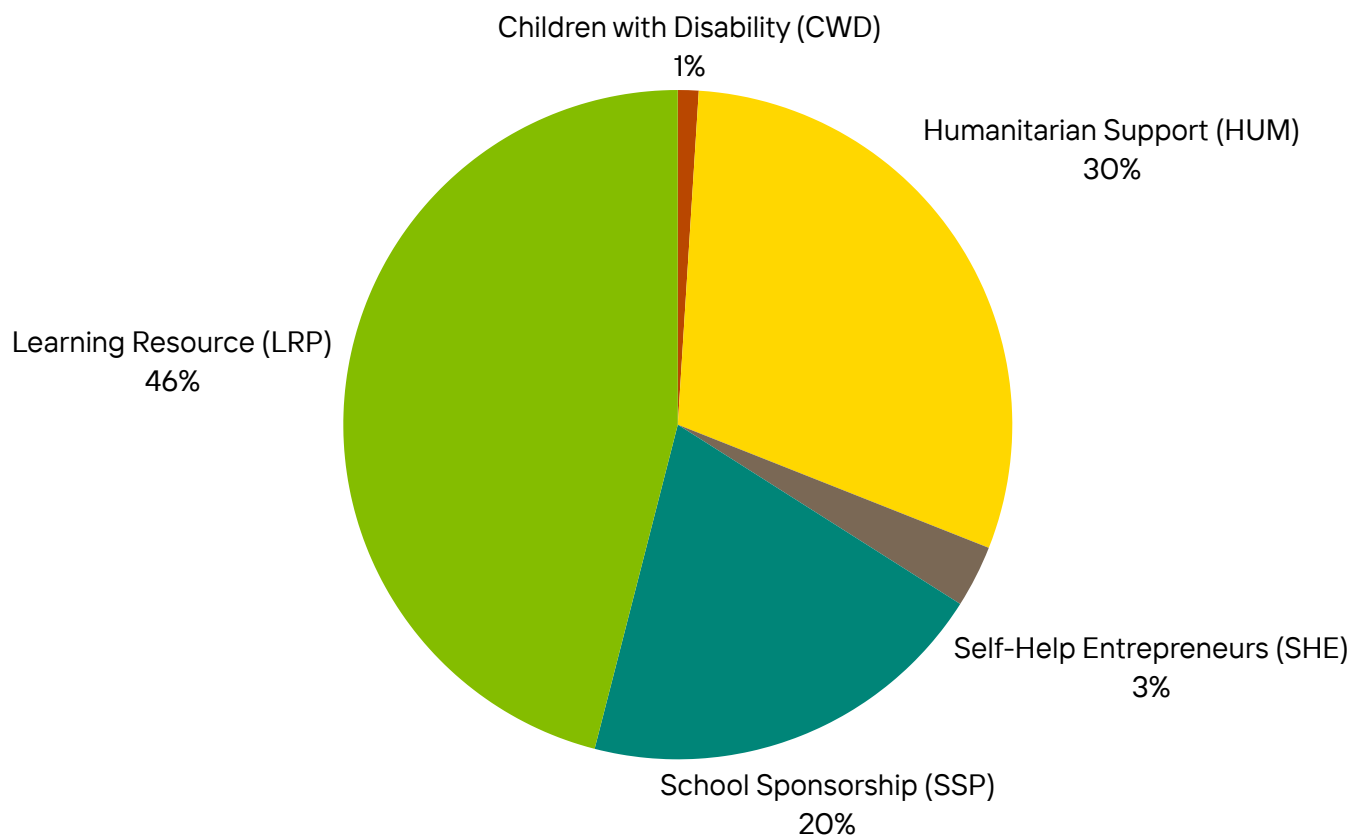


# OVERALL EXPENSES (FY 2024)

Overall Expense	Amount in ETB	Amount In USD	%
Program Cost	32,845,365.66	469,890.78	82%
Admin. cost	7,034,887.38	100,642.17	18%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>39,880,253.04</b>	<b>570,532.95</b>	<b>100%</b>



# INVESTMENT BY PROGRAM AREAS (FY 2024)





# OUR STAFF





**Dr. Mohammed Jemal**  
Country Director



**Desta Boke**  
Program Manager



**Etsegenet Delelegn**  
HR & Operations  
Manager



**Meron Shimeles**  
Finance Manager



**Dawit Aschalew**  
MERL Manager



**Biruk Bernabas**  
Programs & Operations  
Coordinator



**Selam Behailu**  
Procurement  
Officer



**Senait Tadesse**  
Social Worker



**Rediet Memire**  
Social Worker



**Natan Ayele**  
Social Worker



**Desta Helalo**  
Social Worker



**Meskerem Shimeles**  
Cashier & Operations  
Support



**Genet Tadewos**  
Admin & Operations  
Assistant



**Habitu Birke**  
Driver & Logistics  
Assistant



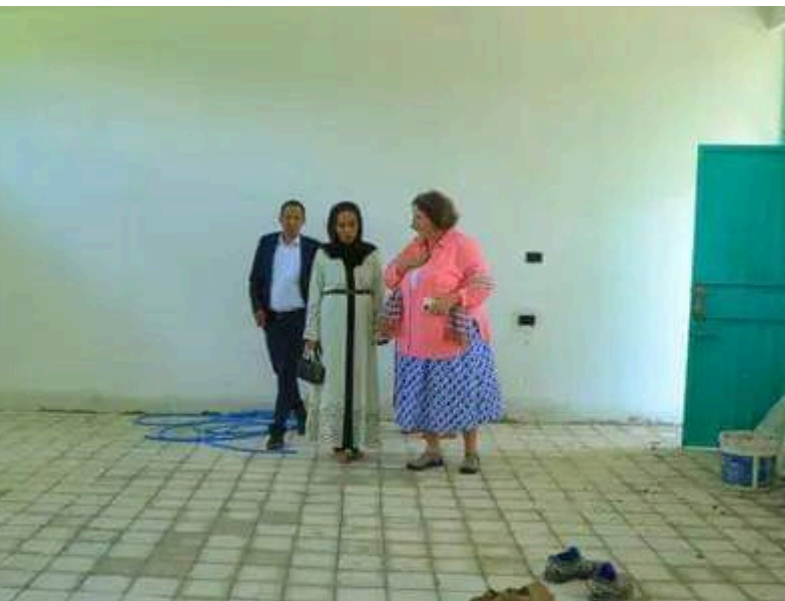
**Haimanot Kumlachew**  
Office Assistant



# THE FUTURE CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



# WE ARE CHANGE-MAKERS WHO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD





# WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU - THANK YOU!

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**Until every child can learn. Until  
every mother can provide. Until  
every family can thrive.**

Scan to support today. Or donate at:  
[www.rootsethiopia.org/donate](http://www.rootsethiopia.org/donate)



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