

# BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA



## Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)

April 1 - June 30 2020

July 2020

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

## Director's Forward

As this quarter comes to an end, Brave Hearts Ethiopia has adjusted its program to continue serving the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children as well as their families during COVID-19. While schools remain closed nationwide, our drop-in center remains open as we work to ensure that we are readily able to provide for all of our beneficiaries. Additionally, children in school are able to continue their education at home using resources from our drop-in center. We follow up with our students; providing them with additional handouts and safe access to our library so they may borrow books to read at home.

This quarter has been focused on assessing the specific needs of each family. These assessments enable us to meet the needs of all our beneficiaries. This included emergency food, counseling, shelter and educational and medical support.

As Easter and Eid celebrations passed without our usual celebrations but thankfully with everyone safe at home, our prayers were with everyone affected by COVID-19. We provided families with hygiene materials along with extra food support in order to maintain their food security. As a result of this food support, children continue to have their daily meals even though school meals are no longer provided due to school closure.

During this time, children and families experience stress and anxiety caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. BHE has been providing the children in our program as well as their guardians counseling and guidance following our assessments. We have also supported our older youth that live alone by ensuring their safety by conducting regular check-ups and giving out provisions. These provisions include daily injera provided by one of our guardians from her income generating small business.

Furthermore, BHE has joined the campaign devoted to condemning and fighting the prevalent issues of domestic violence, rape and abuse against girls and women. This is a pressing national and global issue that we at BHE feel extremely passionately about. As we work to ensure girls receive the opportunities they deserve, we educate our guardians about the importance of safety, love and care for their children. We believe girls and women have the right to feel safe in their own home and that everyone should join the fight in ending violence against girls and women.

BHE has provided the community with food donations and contributed towards the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. We believe it is important to support our community's emergency needs as well as the country's efforts towards development as we pass through this difficult time.

As always, I wish to deeply thank Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for their continued commitment and generous support to orphaned and vulnerable children and their families through BHE. I am immensely grateful to all our donors, partners, volunteers and staff for their valuable support.



*(Signed)*

*Konjit Yimer  
Managing Director  
Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE)*

## Educational and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting 20 students in primary, 9 in secondary, 6 in higher education, 2 in vocational training and 1 in special skills training. Out of these children and youth, BHE supports three youth with special needs; one in secondary, one in higher education and one in skills training.

This year BHE has 5 students under its program who will take the 8th grade national exam and 3 students taking the 12th grade national exam. BHE is providing the students with model exams and material to help them study from home.



We also regularly encourage the children and youth to follow their studies by reading and following educational programs. They are able to borrow books from the BHE library that they can read at home. Lemma, a special needs student in 12th grade is provided with materials through the mobile app Telegram by his school.





## Nutrition and Health Services

BHE has been supporting families by ensuring their food security and hygiene during COVID-19. BHE has provided additional food support to the families. Since children will not have access to school meals provided in public schools, BHE has provided each family with essential food items and additional food allowance. This has been done to ensure the families cope with shortages or increased cost of food supplies and the children continue to receive their daily meals.



BHE has also dispensed 132 facemasks, 95 soaps, 43 sanitizers and 29 sanitary pads to the children and families over the quarter. Three children have also received assistance to get effective medical care.



BHE also increased awareness raising during its call and visit follow ups to families. BHE reiterated and explained protection messages provided by the national health ministry including wearing masks, washing hands regularly and maintaining physical distance.

## Psychosocial Activities and Counseling

BHE's Social Worker conducted 31 home visits along with follow up calls this quarter. The visits and calls were made to follow the well-being, needs and awareness of each family under the program.

Children or youth in need of counseling and guidance are also able to discuss any issues they have during the calls and visits. Other than studying, children and youth are encouraged to spend their time creatively.



Some guardians have lost customers and their work due to lack of supply, rising prices and transportation restrictions. Others who earn their living by washing clothes in the community have not been able to work. However, most of our guardians are staying resilient with some continuing their trade and others finding different work while taking precautions.



BHE has provided family counseling during the home visits to ensure family conflicts are resolved and children feel safe at home.



## Housing Support

BHE has supported the home renovation of families including clean water access and electricity support. BHE has also provided rent support for several families for whom it assessed rent is difficult to cover. The supported families have low incomes and small rooms. BHE continuously supports them in acquiring more adequate housing. Two examples of this include an active member of the IGA and orphaned youth who need safe homes.



Recently BHE supported a family to move into a new home. The house has two rooms, its own pipe water and electricity. This allows them to maintain their basic needs independently, improving their health, sanitation and quality of life. BHE also supported them with fulfilling furniture for their new home. Creating a loving sweet home is one of the pillars of BHE's intervention in improving a child's life.



Three youth who do not have family to support them were also provided with rent support and materials for safe shelter. BHE provided these youths with necessary materials like TV and radio access for their education while schools are closed. BHE also arranged for them to get basic food inputs such as injera from an active IGA member guardian also benefiting her small business.

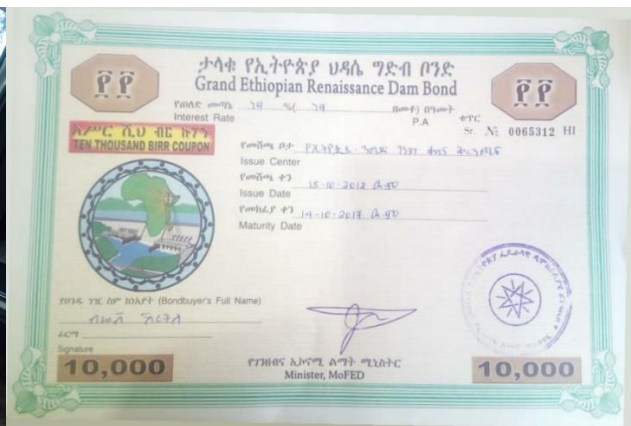
## COVID-19 and Community Support

BHE has provided families with emergency and additional food support as well as financial support due to rising food prices and disruptions in their livelihoods during COVID-19. BHE identified families in need of emergency food support and provided 350 kg of Teff to vulnerable families. Additionally, 1,050 kg of Teff was distributed to the remaining beneficiaries.



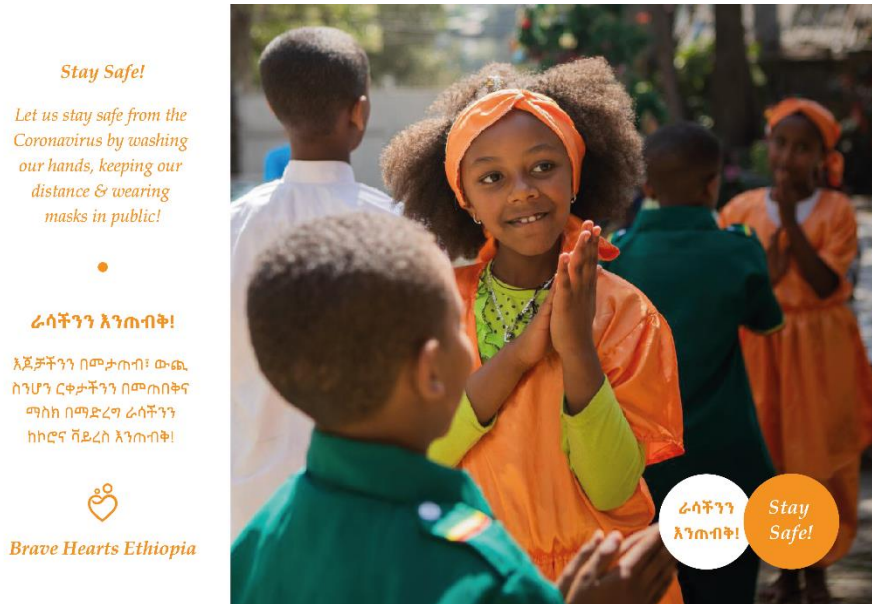
This care makes it possible for children to continue to receive daily meals at home because they are no longer receiving meals at school and BHE's drop-in center. Brave Hearts has also provided extra hygiene materials including masks, hand sanitizers and soap. BHE also provided 200 kg of Rice and 100 kg of Teff to the local Woreda for community support.

BHE contributed to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam through purchasing Bonds totaling 20,000 Birr to support the infrastructure and development efforts. BHE also donated seedlings to support national green environment projects.



## Social Media Awareness and Reach

BHE has continued to produce awareness messages during the quarter in accordance with the global and national guidelines on how to protect individuals and communities from COVID-19. These messages were distributed through social media promotion as well as to the children and families it supports. BHE now has 2,140 followers on Facebook, 196 on Instagram and 80 on Twitter.



BHE also joined the online campaign condemning violence against women both during COVID-19 and during non-crisis periods. BHE believes girls and women deserve to live in a world where their rights are respected and they have equal access to opportunities. BHE strives to ensure this during its project implementation for its program participants and the wider community.







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