

BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA



Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) *January 1 - March 31 2020*

April 2020

www.braveheartsethiopia.org

Director's Forward

As the first three months of 2020 conclude we find ourselves navigating through a global Pandemic caused by COVID-19. The first two months and a half of the quarter had been promising with our students concluding the first semester and some scoring high results.

At the start of the New Year, we had joyous celebrations for Ethiopian Christmas and Epiphany with the children, families and staff. We provided each family with a chicken and ten eggs as we do for holidays so they may partake in the traditional holiday meals. We also celebrated the recovery of Mariam from a bile duct surgery and Alemu from surgery for a broken arm. Both children were able to get well to go back to school. I am extremely proud of Simon, Yonas and Leul who scored outstanding grades in their class. I also congratulate eight of our youth who completed their transition period towards self reliance and graduated from the program.

Our drop in center had been renovated and we had been working with the local administration to renew our project agreement and extend community outreach. However, the challenge of COVID-19 became a national concern in the last two weeks of the quarter. The Ethiopian government has taken several actions to reduce the spread of the virus including the closure of schools and public restrictions. In line with this action, BHE also suspended its regular activities so the children stay safely at home.

I am deeply saddened by the lives lost and concerned for the lives put at risk due to this virus. As our beneficiaries are at higher risk for the health and economic impact of COVID-19, we are doing our best to ensure they stay safe and have food security. We provided them with sanitation materials as well as extra food and financial support so they will be able to protect their families and ensure they have adequate daily meals and medication access. During this work we also ensured to take the necessary measures to protect staff. We have made an effort to reduce unessential travel or contact. We follow up with each family and provide them counseling over the phone, making sure they are staying safe and the children are following their schooling at home.

During this difficult time, I wish to deeply thank Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for their generous support to ensure orphaned and vulnerable children and their families continue to receive the support they need. I also humbly thank all our donors, partners, volunteers and staff for their valuable support. I urge all of us to stay safe and my prayers go out to everyone affected at this time.



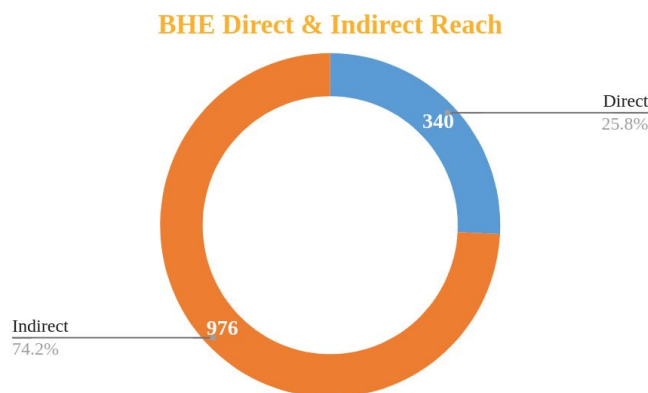
(Signed)

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

Overall Program

Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE), is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2014, registered and licensed under the name Brave Hearts Ethiopian Resident Charity with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Charities and Society Agency (CSA). It is designed to implement a kinship model of care to improve the living condition of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC), enabling access to basic needs and creating opportunities to support OVC eventually to create productive citizens.

BHE's major project services are based on a holistic care model which include the following services: material and technical educational support; medical assistance; nutritional allowance; income generating activities /micro financing; provide startup capital; training on saving and credit; training on HIV/AIDS; counseling; library services; one meal a day served at the drop in center; and life skill training. BHE also provides special needs support for the children in the program who require additional food, physiotherapy and medical support. Since its establishment, BHE has totally impacted 1,316 individuals: 340 directly and 976 indirectly.



In light of current developments with COVID-19 BHE is working to adapt its services so it may continue to provide support to vulnerable children and families who are even more at risk due to the health and economic impact of the virus.

Most families depend on day to day work and income to provide for themselves and the children under their care. As supply and transportation is disrupted, these families' livelihoods will be threatened. Children and youth have also been made to study from home with schools closed. BHE is now working to ensure families have food security, access to sanitation materials and medical support, access to educational materials and counseling follow up over the phone. BHE has also been providing awareness to the community through its social media and is assessing ways to support the community.

Educational and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting 19 students in primary, 9 in secondary, 6 in higher education, 2 in vocational training and 2 in 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 quarter BHE has conducted 260 hours of tutorial service at the drop in center and 30 hours of home tutorial for a special needs youth. BHE has also made 50 school visits over the first semester to assess the children's educational progress. This year we have 5 students in 8th grade and 3 students in 12 grade that will be taking national exams later this year.

Over the semester break, the children spent time at the drop in center engaging in various activities. They read books, played games and attended group sessions.



Three children, Simon, Yonas and Leul scored outstanding scores in the first semester of their school year. These bright kids set an example for the other kids in the program to work hard and succeed in their studies.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Ethiopia have been closed by the government since March 16, 2020 to reduce the spread of the virus. In line with this action, BHE also suspended tutorial after school programs and other activities so the children stay safe at home. BHE has been following educational programs provided by Television and Radio and following up with the children so they keep up with their studies. Model exams were distributed to 8th graders so they may study and prepare at home.

Nutrition and Health Services

BHE has been providing healthy and nutritious after school meals at the drop in center. In this quarter 3 children received assistance to get effective medical care. BHE has also dispensed 132 soaps and 33 sanitary pads to the children over the quarter.



Due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, BHE has provided additional 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 also provided the families with additional hygiene materials so they are able to follow hygiene guidelines and protect themselves from the virus.

Psychosocial Activities and Counseling

Through the quarter BHE provided 8 group Saturday Sessions aimed at building key life skills for the children and youth. These sessions covered topics such as ‘Feeling misunderstood’, ‘Happiest day in your life’, ‘What you are most determined to do’, ‘Behaviours you like about yourself’, ‘Improving educational results’.

Sessions were also held on topics including ‘Feeling angry at yourself over the way you are’, ‘Feeling like people would not like you if they knew you well’, ‘How to protect ourselves and our families from Coronavirus’.



These sessions were conducted to help children and youth build their self confidence, self expression, develop tolerance and listening to others as well as debate and discussion skills. The last session was carried out with the aim of raising awareness on what COVID-19 is and to teach the children how to protect themselves and their families.

BHE is also conducting telephone follow ups to each of the families to ensure their wellbeing as well as offer guidance and counseling. During these calls, the social worker assesses the family’s needs, how the children are spending their day, if they are staying safe and well, if they are following their studies and if they need counseling support.

BHE Epiphany Holiday Celebrations

BHE celebrated a warm and joyous Epiphany (Timket) Holiday with the children, guardians, family, staff, board members and guests. The children showcased their talents through lively dances and skits. Children, youth and guardians were delighted when they received their Christmas gifts and also exchanged gifts amongst themselves. The gift donations were generously made by BHE friends from Melbourne Sisay Kebede, Dr Jenny Ouliaris, Hawa Adem, Fesseha Mohammed.



BHE is grateful to our BHE board members and guests, Ethiopian National team coach Abraham Mebratu, Mesfin Tefere, W/ro Alemnesh Abebe and W/ro Mestawot Kidane who spent the holiday afternoon joining the fun and inspiring the youth.



COVID-19 Response and Support

The emergence and spread of COVID-19 has caused global disruptions and loss to human life as well as the functioning of governmental, non-governmental and private institutions.

Upon the official confirmation of the first case in Ethiopia on March 12 and government’s action to close schools on March 16, BHE has suspended its normal drop in center activities such as tutorials, group counseling, after school meals. This action was taken in line with the government to curb the spread of COVID-19 and ensure safety of children and the community.

Given the weight of the health and economic problems that COVID-19 will cause, BHE is carefully working to adjust its strategy to continue supporting children, guardians and families in need. The aim is to conduct core program activities while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of beneficiaries, staff, community, partners and donors.

Date	Actions taken by government	Potential concerns	Date	Actions taken by BHE
12 March	First case of COVID-19 officially confirmed in Ethiopia	Lack of awareness of communities on protection	14 March	Provided awareness discussion for beneficiaries on Covid protection, Ensure hygiene materials are available at the drop in center, Disseminate awareness material in drop in center and on social media for community
16 March	Close all schools to reduce spread of Covid19 for two weeks	Close contact in schools may worsen spread of Covid	16 March	Suspend drop in center activities, after school tutorial, group sessions and the like.
21 March	Increase awareness and hygiene material provision, take action on price increases in the market, reduce flights, enforce quarantine for those entering the	Still inadequate community awareness on, increasing market prices of basic food supplies	21 March	Provide emergency food supply and hygiene material for each household along with 250 birr for other basic needs

	country, close bars and clubs and other measures			
25 March	Federal and Addis Ababa City employees will work from home except essential services such as water, electricity, police, construction	Public transportation and traveling to work may expose staff to infection	24 March	BHE staff to work from home with exception of necessary requirements to be at the drop in center. Transportation arranged for safety. Social worker to monitor and follow up families via telephone and provide guidance and counseling. ¹¹
27 March	School closure to be extended for another two weeks, closure of land borders and economic reforms, Tigray region on lockdown	Transportation restrictions and safety concerns may cause difficulty in accessing food items and essential materials	28 March	BHE provided financial support for the month with an extra 500 birr per household to ensure food security, in case of price increases or lockdowns in upcoming days, Provision of one month advance payment for staff to be repaid slowly over a year to ensure staff wellbeing as well.

BHE will continue to monitor situations on the ground and take necessary actions.

BHE Awareness Messages

BHE has produced awareness messages in accordance with the global and national guidelines on how to protect individuals and communities from COVID-19. BHE has provided these messages at its drop in center and on its social media. The messages are updated as official guidelines are updated.



Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE)



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Hygiene Awareness on Corona Virus Protection



እጅ አዘውትሮ በሳሙና ለ20 ሰከንድ መታጠብ

Wash Your Hands Frequently With Soap For 20 Seconds



ምግብ አብስሎ መብላት እና የምግብ እቃዎች በሳሙና ማጠብ

Eat Cooked Food And Wash Dishes With Soap



ሲያስነጥስ ወይም ሲያስል አፍ እና አፊንጨ መሸፈን

Cover Your Mouth & Nose When Sneezing Or Coughing



በእጅ ፊት አለመንካት እና አለመጨበበጥ

Avoid Touching Your Face And Shaking Hands



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