

# Children on the Move



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## Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)

An overview of EDA's child protection & care programs focused on at-risk children & preventing trafficking & abuse in Ethiopia.

# Who is a 'Child on the Move'?

This term applies to various situations of children. It can apply to children who were trafficked, children who migrated in search of opportunity or to escape abuse, children displaced by conflict or disaster and children who live and work on the streets. Overall, children who are on the move, whether they are alone or with family, moving voluntarily or involuntarily, are extremely vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. EDA works with a wide community of organizations and individuals to combat this issue.

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## The Drop-In Centre

EDA's drop-in centre for at risk youth offers a safe and comfortable space where children can receive shelter, psychosocial and health support. Youth who are brought to the centre remain for 3 days where they are cared for by EDA's social workers and supported by the local police. Here they are given space to talk about the issues that made them leave home and what kind of solutions they want

whether it is education, employment or to be reunited with their families. They are also taken to the health clinic for free services to be checked for signs of abuse or sexually transmitted diseases. The Drop-In Centre is supported by EDA, the local police and the Women, Children and Youth Affairs office.



# Our Multi-Sectoral Approach

They say it takes a community to raise a child, we believe this also applies to protect a child. To prevent child migration, intercept child trafficking and keep children on the move safe, EDA uses a multi-sectoral approach by engaging local government, police officers, law and justice administration, the transport industry, community-based organizations, the private sector, mass media channels, and of course children themselves. By spreading a wide net of awareness, the entire community can become actors in child protection by recognizing the signs of risky movement and by having a strong community referral system in place.

## Local Government

Local governments are able to unify multiple bodies to work against child trafficking and promote sustainable change in the wider community. EDA has worked with various government offices (such as the Women, Children and Youth Affairs office) to train and strengthen their capacity to support children on the move.

## Law and Justice Administration

Law and Justice Administration are in a unique position to provide legal services for trafficked children and to charge traffickers with the crimes they have committed. By working with these bodies to strengthen the justice system, traffickers will be deterred by strict legal ramifications.

## Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

EDA engages with CBOs to strengthen their response systems and create a wide network of child protection actors. Many organizations in Ethiopia are already working to prevent trafficking but lack the tools and access to reliable networks or a referral system.

## Child Clubs

Children can protect each other by understanding the risks associated with movement. Through Child Clubs, students work around the idea of pre-protection, which focuses on raising awareness in schools.

## Police Officers

EDA works with police officers to identify high-risk areas for children, improve their data collection and to conduct sensitization workshops to create a more empathetic approach to how the police deal with vulnerable youth. The police also work directly with the safe reunification of children and the drop-in centre.

## The Transport Industry

By engaging the Transport Authorities, they can act as front-line defenders of child protection. EDA works with teams to help them identify signs of trafficking and offer them a network to contact if child trafficking or risky movement is identified.

## The Private Sector

Many businesses end up employing children because of their low labour costs and eagerness to work. EDA works with the private sector to foster an understanding of the detriment that child labour has on the lives of kids.

## Mass-Media Agencies

EDA has worked with various public-private mass-media agencies to create a public education campaign around the risks and signs of child trafficking and migration.

# Akaki-Kality Sub City of Addis Ababa

## Improve the Well-Being of Children Without Appropriate Care with Particular Focus on Children on the Move/Trafficked Children

Within the capital city of Addis Ababa, the sub city of Akaki-Kality is a particularly high-risk area for children on the move, as it is a highly industrial as well as marginalized area. Many children who travel to the city for a better life end up being exploited, abused or living on the streets. EDA is working to enhance community capacity by organizing business skills training for poor mothers, supporting community conversations to engage the neighbourhoods to become child protection actors and conducting sensitization workshops with local police. We are also protecting children by reunifying families, supporting children's food, shelter and education, and providing children with life skills training focused on decision-making, effective communication and coping with stress.

**Timeline: Jan 2015 - Dec 2015**

**Implemented in: Woreda 4**



**Save the Children**

### Stories of Community Intervention

**Mulu Iticha** enthusiastically shares her experiences of working as a **Community Conversation leader** for the past two years. She has seen the changes in people's attitudes around child protection as **they have gone from "it's none of my business" to feeling accountable for all children "as if they were my own."**

#### Spotting Abuse

Children are often brought from rural areas to work as domestic labourers in the city. **Many poor families cannot support them and believe that their child will have a better life**, not realizing they are leaving them vulnerable. Mulu shared one story where a young girl was brought from a rural area to work in a neighbouring household. The community members would often see the girl carrying two children, one on her front and one on her back, as well as heavy items in her hands. The girl was very poorly cared for and physically abused. **After participating in the CC's, the community members understood their role.** They talked to the Women, Children and Youth Affairs office who then called the local police. The police pressured the

woman to contact the girl's parents, who realizing the abusive situation their daughter was in came and brought her home.

#### Supporting Single Parents

Spotting a man carrying a child around the streets and begging for money, the community members met him with many questions. **'Is this your child? Where is her mother?'** He replied that the girl is his daughter but she has no mother, and that they also have no place to live. The community members decided to support him by building a temporary shelter on someone's property. **"You can work, we will take care of the child."** Now during the day the community members care for the child while the father goes to work and then in the evenings they live in the shelter together. The father has stopped begging and the community members have approached the government about receiving sponsorship for the child to go to school.

#### Ensuring Justice

Another case shared by Mulu involved a female broker who took a young girl from school, but promised her money. The girl would engage in begging on the streets, but **rather than making money she was being abused and the money was taken from her.** The community members noticed this and called the police. Thankfully, the police caught the woman and she is now in prison. The young girl is back in school where she belongs.





# Debreberhan and the Amhara Region

## Protection of Children on the Move in the Northern Ethiopian Corridor

Ethiopia has seen an increase in child migration, particularly from the northern areas. This is called the Northern Ethiopia Corridor. This ongoing project aims to create a strong network of child protection actors by using a referral system and strengthening existing community organizations. EDA works with four other NGOs: African Network for the Prevention & Protection of Children against Maltreatment and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Organization for Child Development and Transformation (CHADET), Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE), and Professional Alliance for Development (PADet).

**Implemented in: 8 Woredas  
of Amhara, including the high risk  
transit town of Debreberhan**



### Project Outcomes from 2012 to 2014

3713 children reunified with their parents or guardians in  
collaboration with CCC structures, mainly local police

1566 older children who were unwilling to reunify with their families have  
been given business skills training and seed funds for their small businesses

Educational materials and learning support provided for 5664 highly vulnerable children

Using national media, approximately 267,200 community members  
have been reached over Berhan FM 94.0 & Dessie FM 96.0

282 children who were exposed to abuse or violence have  
received access to medical and legal aid services

## Women Children and Youth Affairs Office

The Women, Children & Youth Affairs (WCYA) office is the government body that supports child centred initiatives like the Children on the Move program, as well as youth and women centered issues. They are also managing the Community Care Coalition (CCC) structure in supporting highly vulnerable children through protection as well as income generating activities (IGA). They work closely with social workers who see children's issues on the ground and then report them to the WCYA and CCC. The WCYA works with various community members to strengthen the child protection network. They also consider the CCC structure in Debreberhan to be an outstanding model for other communities to learn from.

The CCC is a government organized structure made up of government and community leaders at both the woreda & kebele levels, school clubs, & police officers who are responsive to the issues faced by Children on the Move.

# The CCC: Community Care Coalition

## Child Protection Forum & School Child Clubs

A large part of protecting children is ensuring that they themselves are aware of their own vulnerabilities. In Debreberhan, school children are taking on the challenge by participating in Child Clubs that focus on pre-protection through awareness. By sharing cases of other children, identifying abusers, and discussing the risks of movement, children can be the first line of defence for their own protection.

Child Club leaders participate in a Training of Trainers (ToT) program. They learn about highly vulnerable children (HVC) and the risks associated. They also learn how to identify, prepare and solve cases. Following this they share their knowledge with all members of the Child Club. The members then create media and participatory campaigns for their schools. Once a week the members conduct Child Day during their break where they come together to discuss issues they face at home, in school and in the community. The forum also identifies students with financial difficulties and connects them with EDA who can help provide educational materials and other necessary items like school uniforms.

Children are the first to notice when their classmates change their behaviour or their attendance drops. They are prompted to reach out to the students and ask about their situation. They can also use their case knowledge to help the vulnerable student understand that there are others in similar situations. When abuse is detected the forum prepares counselling and guidance for the student.

**Before the forum existed, children would not step forward to discuss abuse. Now they are active participants in their own protection.**



**Members of the Child Protection Forum**  
L to R: Eyerus Getaneh (member), Nigest Brehan (leader), Harmala Shuma (secretary), Harmanot Fraw (vice-leader)

One grade seven male student was living with his father after his mother had moved to Saudi Arabia for work. His basic needs were going unmet, as he had no food at home and his father would spend all day in town, returning at night when he would often whip his children. When the student was at school he suffered from anxiety and was always separate from the other children. His education was suffering. The forum members suspected this and contacted the student to ask him about his situation. They then asked the father to come to the school, but he refused so they contacted the CCC structure. They contacted the father and were able to discuss with him the importance of education and how his actions were hindering his child's success. The father promised to fulfil his responsibilities as a parent. Now the student actively participates

- Leading the reunification process, local police deliver support services at the drop-in centre before contacting the migrant child's original home. If safe to return, a police officer is assigned to accompany the child back home, while transport costs are covered by EDA.
- Police also investigate situations of abuse and work with justice administration to bring abusers to prosecution.
- Before receiving support from EDA and the CCC, local police did not have a budget to support the child protection and reunification programming. Before this, many officers would pay out of their own pockets to help highly vulnerable children.
- The police station in Debreberhan has stepped up to be a model for other police stations in various cities. With support from EDA, they have also created a database to register and monitor children on the move.

## Reunification & Protection



Inspector Titza Zewda is the Women, Children & Youth Officer in Debreberhan, a leader in child protection and an invaluable partner of EDA and the CCC

# Supporting Parents and Guardians

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The ideal situation for children is for them to be safe and happy at home with their families. That is why we support livelihood programs for parents and guardians of highly vulnerable children. EDA gave the CCC 95,000 Birr to support parents and guardians of highly vulnerable children by giving successfully trained participants a 3000 Birr seed fund.

## Bizunash Kifle, 39

Bizunash, single mother of four, has always been a committed parent with the dream of seeing her children successful in school. Before taking EDA's Business Skills Training and receiving a seed fund of 3000 Birr, she struggled to make her business of selling local drinks profitable.

After the training she continued to sell local drinks, but it wasn't bringing in the profits she needed. With an enhanced understanding of profit and loss, she decided to transform her business to a more marketable one, baking and selling injera and rearing cows and sheep. Now she is making enough money to pay for all the basic needs of her children, including food, clothes and school supplies. She is also able to pay 1000 Birr per month to send her eldest daughter to school in Addis Ababa where she is earning her Degree in computer science!

Being the dedicated parent that she is, Bizunash first used a large portion of the loan to enroll her daughter in University. She used the rest to invest in her small business. She has plans in the future to save 50 Birr per day, but right now her focus is seeing her children educated and happy. She also aspires to one day open a distribution centre in a convenient location so that rather than walking from hotel to hotel selling injera, the customers will come to her. This will give her more time to produce injera and increase her productivity and profits. When women like Bizunash are given a loan the impact is huge, as she strengthens not only her family, but her whole community.



## Gabrie Nigusa, 24

Gabrie works out of a small shop on the outskirts of Debreberhan, where he works meticulously at selling and shining shoes. Receiving training and a seed fund of 3000 birr helped him to kick-start his business.

After the death of his parents, Gabriele has stepped into the role as head of the family and works hard to provide for his three younger brothers and finance his sister's college education. He is now able to meet his family's immediate needs and can also save an average of 650 birr each week, allowing him to meet new expenses and invest in his business.

The CCC Structures collaborate with EDA who provides beneficiaries with proper training for small businesses and the seed funds to jumpstart their operations. Nigusa says that through this program, he received business skills training, workshops on saving and managing money, calculating expenses, and assisting with budgeting and procuring materials.

He explains that his business is now very fruitful and he plans to continue to progress in the following years. One goal is to get the approval of the government and obtain a business license which will help him to improve the quality and size of the shop he currently has, as well as eventually open up a bigger shop in town.



This young girl left home in search of a better opportunity. Meeting a broker who promised her work, she was placed in a household in Debreberhan as a servant. After two months of work, her wages were taken from her. Here she is now in the drop-in centre where she can receive psychosocial support, health services and protection from the police.

Next she will be asked, 'What do you need?'

'Education?'

'Opportunity?'

'To be reunited with family?'

## Emmanuel Development Association is Protecting Children on the Move!

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