



Funding

The Fund is currently committed to sending £8,000 monthly out to the school. This amount has reduced, largely as a result of the school closure and a favourable exchange rate, but need for funds will rise as things return to normal. Capital costs are looming, including for the provision of computers and the internet. The budget includes the additional costs of Covid-19 prevention measures and extra nurses.

For a small charity, this a huge undertaking. Last year, as you will see from the attached accounts, we were remarkably successful, despite the pandemic. But we can never afford to relax.



How can you help?

- Prompt online donations through *Amazon Smile* or *Give as You Live*
- Consider upgrading your support to a monthly gift
- Nominate us as your workplace or school 'Charity of the Year'
- Organise a fundraising event or raise money through a sponsored event

Donate online today at <http://tinyurl.com/yxt3vlk9>

With thanks...

Thanks are due to our auditors, David Harrison and Co. of Belfast, who have kindly audited our accounts for many years, completely without charge.

The Fund has no paid staff and is run on an entirely voluntary basis.

We would like to thank our Trustees for all of their hard work: Carolyn Barker-Mill, Gillian Cloke, Richard Cloke, Nicholas Kaye, Timothy Kinahan and Martha Street.

And, not least, thanks to all our supporters, whose remarkable generosity in difficult economic times has helped turn so many dreams into reality.



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

Annual Report 2020



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

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The Asra Hawariat School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is a non-fee paying, non-religious and non-political voluntary organisation working with those children and families who could not otherwise afford to get an education.

Pandemic response

We report on a tough year for the Asra Hawariat School. Covid-19 changed everything. The Ethiopian government declared a state of emergency, with people encouraged to stay at home. Churches, mosques and universities were shut. Many government departments were also shut or working with a skeleton staff.

The school was closed for eight months from May to December 2020, during the initial stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers continued to be paid. The farm was worked. Remote learning using computers was impossible. Instead, there was a programme of home learning through worksheets, with the enthusiastic involvement of parents, older siblings and teachers. The Ministry of Education praised the initiative as an example of good practice.

The school has been open again since December with the normal academic program. To permit social distancing, students attend classes on alternate days including Saturday. Sanitary precautions and Ministry instructions are carefully followed, with temperatures taken at the gate, handwashing, sanitiser and wearing of masks.

The School in 2020

The school currently has 885 students, 474 of whom are girls. Children who have lost one or both of their parents have the first claim on places; next, children whose families cannot afford even the limited costs of state education (uniform, books, stationery). Prospective students are screened by a committee comprising the school principal, social workers and parent representatives. The children have free education with small class sizes and exceptional exam success. Material support helps the poorest stay at school and get enough to eat.

More girls are admitted than boys. The school believes strongly that female education is vital to social stability and economic growth. The teaching staff is a mix of older and experienced teachers, and younger ones, many of whom were pupils at the School themselves.

Lively school clubs include Health and Sanitation, Literature, Drama and Music, Girls' Club, Sports and Arts, Civics, Environmental Protection and Beautification, Child Rights and Advocacy.

Agriculture and open space

The farm is run as a demonstration farm and provides milk and vegetables for the Child Aid families. There are 60 head of cattle, and production of vegetables, such as spinach, carrots, cabbage and beetroot, as well as local crops – kitma, gesha and koba. Both campuses are well planted with indigenous trees and there is open space for sports. One of the great pleasures in visiting the school is to see children from crowded slums with room to run and play in natural surroundings.

Health service

The school health service aims at prevention rather than cure, offering advice on basic hygiene. It also offers a first aid facility.

This year we plan to employ two nurses, one for each campus, whose emphasis will be on girls' health. This will include the supply of sanitary products. The projected budget for this is 182,000 Birr (in the region of £3,300).

Child and Family Aid

This programme supports 361 of the poorest children in difficult circumstances, disabled, orphans and those from broken families. Children who need homes are placed with local foster families, for non-institutional care in a family and community setting. Financial support, milk and vegetables are provided, so that the poorest do not miss school to do household tasks, work or beg.

The Asra Hawariat School Fund

The work of the school is all the more important through such difficult times. The Asra Hawariat School Fund is committed to the continuing support of the school, its staff and pupils during the pandemic. We provide more than 90% of the school's income. Fundraising has of course been more difficult, and maintaining the Fund's income has been an ongoing challenge.



How it all began



The school began in 1961 when Asfaw Yemiru, the founder (pictured) was a 9th Grade student at the British Council-run General Wingate School. When his classes were over, Asfaw, who had himself

been a street child, started to teach street children who slept in the local churchyard. They were fed on left-over food from the Wingate. This arrangement was put on a more permanent footing in 1961, owing to a grant of land from the then-Emperor Haile Selassie – the children were able to sleep under cover, on shelves at the side of their classrooms.

In 1965, when the number of students had reached 1,000, the school was officially recognised by the Ministry of Education. Since then the school, in addition to its core educational work, has run a number of additional humanitarian projects: an orphanage; Child and Family Aid, including fostering children with local families; a vocational farm; a feeding centre for malnourished children; a kindergarten; and various training programmes.

Since its foundation, the school has reached and helped over 120,000 of the poorest citizens of Ethiopia's capital city. The school runs two campuses in the west of the city, one for Grades 1-4 and the other for Grades 5-8.

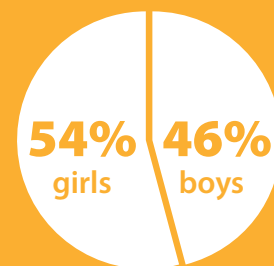
120,200

Number of children reached and helped since the school's foundation in 1961

The school currently has...

885 students

57 teachers



100%

Pass rate in the Grade 8 National Exams – amongst the best results in the country



£8,000
each month

The Asra Hawariat School Fund is responsible for funding all of the running costs of the school