



Funding

The school budget for 2021/2 means that the Fund is now committed to sending £8,000 monthly out to the school. This amount is down on recent years, largely as a result of school closures and a favourable exchange rate, as well as the ending of the Child and Family Aid programme. We are currently factoring in the additional costs of Covid-19 prevention measures and the additional nursing staff. For a small charity, this represents a huge undertaking. Last year, as you will see from the attached accounts, we were remarkably successful, despite the pandemic. However we cannot afford to relax, especially as we do need to have a cushion of at least six months' expenditure in order to provide security for the school. The generosity of our donors during 2021 has been amazing, so we can currently maintain our support with the requisite level of security.

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 on our website or at:
cafdonate.cafonline.org/18345#!/DonationDetails

With thanks...

Thanks are due, once again, to our auditors, David Harrison and Co. of Belfast, who kindly audit our accounts without charge.

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

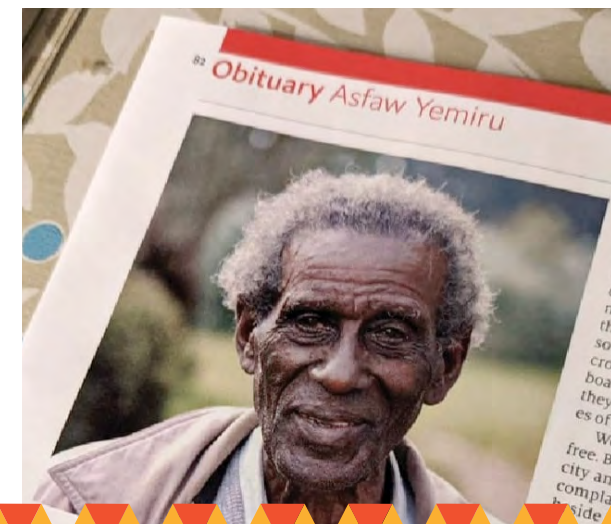
We would like to thank our Trustees for all of their hard work: Carolyn Barker-Mill, Gillian Cloke, Richard Cloke, Nicholas Kaye, Timothy Kinahan and Martha Street.

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 2021



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

Asra Hawariat School Fund

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Asfaw Yemiru

Of course, the major event of this past year has been the death on 8 May 2021 of our founder, Asfaw Yemiru.



His vision and charisma were a profound inspiration to generations of children: he changed the lives of so many. Obituaries for him appeared in the international media and can be viewed on our website.

Obviously, this has been a huge loss, but the team (led by his widow Senayet) – who have been largely running the school during the previous decade – are continuing his good work. **Through them Asfaw's vision and inspiration live on.**



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.

A tough year

The school was closed for eight months during the initial stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the lockdown a programme of home learning through the use of worksheets (computer-based learning obviously being impossible) was introduced. The extensive and enthusiastic involvement of teachers, parents and older siblings added to the success of the home-schooling programme. The Ministry of Education acknowledged this initiative as an example of good practice for state schools to emulate.

The school was fully operational during 2021 – children have their temperature taken on arrival, hand sanitiser is available in each classroom, and all children wear masks, supplied by the school.



The whole school community was delighted in October to be awarded a magnificent trophy for being the best in Addis Ababa, based on evaluation reports and exam results over the previous four years.

The school

The school currently has 846 students, 448 of whom are girls. Priority is given to those children who have lost one or both of their parents. Next, to children whose lives are seriously disrupted by poverty and who would find even the limited costs of a state education (uniform, books, stationery etc) beyond them. Prospective students are screened by a committee comprising the school principal, social workers and selected representatives of parents whose children are already at the school. Once they are accepted, the children are provided with a completely free education, with some material support for the neediest children.

The school's bias in favour of girls is deliberate as the school believes strongly that female education is vital to social stability and economic growth – as has been borne out by countless studies from many parts of the world. The school has also put more emphasis on the teaching of English, right from Year 1, as well as allocating more curriculum time to science and maths.

Our teaching staff, of whom there are 47, is made up of a mix of older and experienced teachers, and younger ones, many of whom have come through the Asra Hawariat School themselves. In-service training is on-going.

Agriculture

The school farm was one of Asfaw's personal interests, and his illness and death have meant that there is only a small plot now operational for student demonstration purposes.

Health service

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

Child and Family Aid

This programme has, unfortunately, had to be closed since Asfaw died. Most of the children attending the school are from poor families, and it was getting increasingly difficult to select a few families from their number.

School clubs

There are several lively and educational school clubs, including Health and Sanitation Club, Literature Drama and Music, Girls' Club, Sports and Arts, Civics, Environmental Protection and Beautification, Mini-media. These are gradually getting going again after Covid disruption.

Alumni

One of the highlights of the past few years has been the increasing role played by some of the school's alumni, who have been contributing books for the school library, equipment for science classes, and clothes for those worst affected by the pandemic. They have also organised a blood donation session at the school. Some of their number also teach additional science classes on a Saturday morning.



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.

120,400

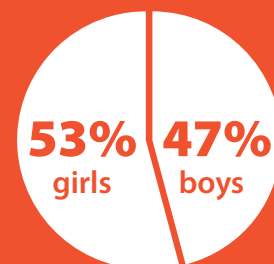
Number of children reached and helped since the school's foundation in 1961

The school currently has...

846

 students

47

 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 90% of the running costs of the school