

> Funding

We are committed to sending £11,000 monthly to the school, which also requires occasional injections of extra funding for specific purposes. This is a huge undertaking for a small charity. Last year, as you will see from the attached accounts, we were remarkably successful. But 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. Last year our £11,000 converted into anything from 445,511 Birr to 386,112 Birr; we are fortunate that the exchange rate is in our favour at the moment.

> How can you help?

- Consider upgrading your support to a regular monthly gift
- Nominate us as your workplace or school 'Charity of the Year'
- Raise money through a sponsored event
- Organise a fundraising event like a cake sale or street party

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, Charles Sherlock and Martha Street.

And, not least, thanks to all our supporters, whose remarkable generosity in difficult economic times has ensured another good year, and who have helped turn so many dreams into reality.



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

Annual Report 2019



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

www.asrahawariatschool.org

Asra Hawariat School Fund

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The Asra Hawariat School 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.

> This year at the school

The school currently has 971 students, 523 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 accepted, the children are provided with a completely free education, with some material support for the neediest.

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.

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

The school follows the National Curriculum as laid down by the Ministry of Education, with some minor adjustments, such as the teaching of English from 1st Grade. Class sizes are kept small – an average of no more than 30. All this, along with highly-motivated students, has meant that the school has achieved a 100% pass rate at the national Grade 8 exam.

This year we have also completed the construction of a new library on the 'Old Land', for Grades 1-8. This has been generously stocked with appropriate books by a group of former pupils who have used social media to encourage other alumni to support the school. Some of this group, scientific and/or technical professionals, are also teaching well-attended extra science classes for Grade 8 students on a Saturday morning.

The school hall (again, on the Old Land) has been beautifully refurbished: the plan is to let it out for conferences, weddings and meetings in order to generate some income locally and reduce dependence on overseas funding.

> Agriculture

The farm thrives, acting both as a demonstration farm and as a source of fresh milk and vegetables for the Child and Family Aid families. There are 60 head of cattle, and significant production of vegetables, including local delicacies such as kitma, gesha and koba. Both campuses are well-planted with indigenous trees – one of the great pleasures of visiting the school is to see the children playing in extensive and well-planned 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. In addition, 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 136,000 Birr (in the region of £3,500).

> Child and Family Aid

This programme offers support to 361 of the poorest families/children, with an emphasis on those who are disabled, fostered orphans or from broken families. The programme provides financial support, so that children are not kept out of school to take over the household chores, or even resort to begging.

The programme was set up in the early 1990s to provide non-institutional care for orphaned and disadvantaged children. Instead of being institutionalised, they are offered the normality of a family, a street, a neighbourhood. Until recently, the programme has been funded from farm-profits: this year's budget of 720,000 Birr (approx. £17,500) will be financed by AHSF.

> School clubs

There are several lively and educational school clubs, including Health and Sanitation Club (75 members), Literature, Drama and Music (95), Girls' Club (155), Sports and Arts (90), Civics, Environmental Protection and Beautification (90), Child Rights and Advocacy (90).

During this year the school has started to encourage Muslim children to help prepare Churches before major Christian festivals, and Christian children to do the same at the Mosque before significant Muslim festivals. This has been taken up with enthusiasm.



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 started to teach

local street children under a tree in the adjacent churchyard. They were fed on left-over food from the Wingate, and started to sleep there. 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 1000, 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.

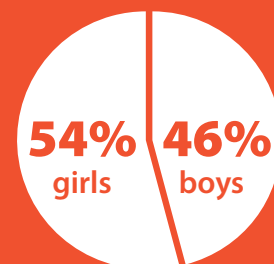
120,100

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

The school currently has...

971 students

67 teachers



100%

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



£11,000
each month

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