



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Introduction

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. The school began in 1961 when Asfaw Yemiru, the founder, 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 local Church yard; the children were fed on left-over food from Wingate, and they slept in the Church yard. This was put on a more permanent footing in 1961, owing to a grant of land from the then-emperor Haile Selassie – and the children were able to sleep under cover, on shelves at the side of the 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, it 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.

The Asra Hawariat School Fund (UK Registered Charity 325121) provides 100% of the school's funding.

New Build Arts and Science block

The new block – along with a matching Staff Room/Clinic block, was inaugurated at a splendid ceremony at the end of April 2017. Its laboratories have been furnished with the aid of a grant from the Irish Embassy. It is an impressive, morale-boosting building which goes a long way to rectifying the lack of such facilities that was the main criticism the school inspectors had of the School.

Information Technology

The IT centres, one at each campus, have 22 computers, which are enthusiastically used by staff and students alike. Currently they are not connected to the internet because of local infrastructural issues. We hope to be able to rectify this when broadband becomes locally available.



Regular School Operation

Student Enrolment

We admit only those children whose parents would have real difficulty affording the small costs involved in a government education – the poorest of the poor, children from single parent families, the homeless, those with no defined source of income, slum-dwellers and orphans.

We believe strongly in encouraging female education as a primary means of tackling poverty and, as a result, out of a student body of 1066, 575 are girls.

The student body is served by 50 teaching staff, of whom 4 are qualified to Certificate level, 35 to Diploma level, and 11 with Degrees. All are encouraged and financially assisted to further their studies and offered in-house training. We have given them significant and well-earned salary increases this year – averaging 32% - as a direct result of alarming increases in the cost of living.

The school follows the National Curriculum as laid down by the Ministry of Education, with some adjustments – English is taught from Grade 1, and science and maths given greater emphasis. We also keep class sizes small, averaging 30, which is much smaller than most other schools in the country.

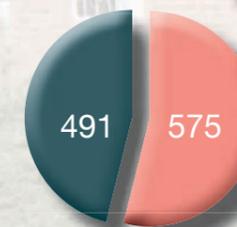
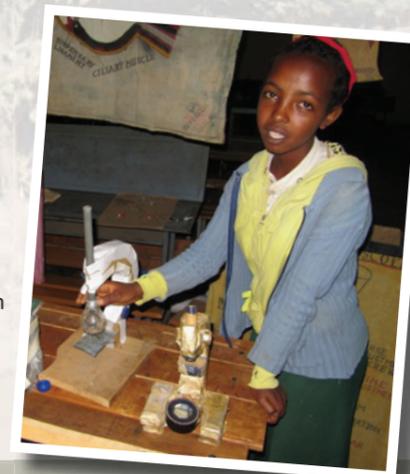
Academic progress is regularly assessed, and children assisted as necessary. In this academic year we had a 100% pass rate in the national Grade 8 examinations. Being poor, the children are fully aware that the education offered is their one route to a brighter future, and they work hard.

School Clubs

There are several lively and educational school clubs, including Anti-Aids Club (125 members), Literature Drama and Music (20), Girls' Club (125), Sports (95), Civics (95), Environmental Protection and Beautification (69), Child Rights and Advocacy (95).

School Administration

One thing that the trustees of the fund are frequently asked is: 'what is the planning for the future?' There is understandable concern that, as the school's charismatic founder gets older, that there are competent people in place to run the school. The school is also very aware of this and has had senior staff in all leadership roles for several years, and doing them efficiently and competently. This is true of finance, procurement, maintenance and all other aspects of school life as well as the academic. Asfaw's vision is in good hands.



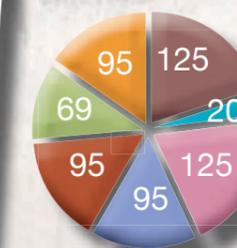
Student Ratio:

- Boys
- Girls
- Total 1066



Staff Qualifications:

- Certificate Level
- Diploma Level
- Degree Level



Student Club Membership:

- Anti-Aids
- Literature Drama Music
- Girls' Club
- Sports
- Civics
- Environmental Protection
- Child Rights & Advocacy

Legal & Administrative details

The Asra Hawariat School Fund was founded by a Declaration of Trust dated 10th October 1974, and is registered with the UK Charity Commission as Charity No.325121. The objects of the Charity are the relief of poverty and the advancement of education in Ethiopia through the work of the Asra Hawariat School. The Fund has no paid staff and is run on an entirely voluntary basis. The Trustees of the Fund are Carolyn Barker Mill, Gillian Cloke, Richard Cloke, Nicholas Kaye, Timothy Kinahan and Martha Street.



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Other Activities

Child Aid Programme

The Child Aid programme supports 57 orphans with local families rather than in an institutional orphanage. This gives them a normal home and community environment in which to flourish. Families are supported both financially and with produce from our farm.

Currently no new children are being taken onto this programme, largely as a result of slum clearance programmes in the city, which makes it increasingly difficult to maintain contact.

Agriculture

The farm thrives, acting both as a demonstration farm and as a source of fresh milk and vegetables for the Child Aid families. There are 60 head of cattle, and significant production of spinach, carrots, cabbage, beetroot, lettuce, onion, garlic and various local delicacies such as kitma, gesha and koba. The school also has a small greenhouse to grow fruit-tree seedlings, such as apple and plum. These seedlings are then given out to students and their families to plant at home or in their neighbourhood (space permitting). Both campuses are well planted with indigenous trees – one of the great pleasures of visiting the school is to see the kids, who live in crowded slum conditions, playing in extensive and well-planned natural surroundings.

Health Service

In the school's health service and awareness creation program, more emphasis is given on preventive methods than cure. The important issues in health education are videotaped in Amharic and English and are used as visual aid to stress the importance of leading a healthy and happy life. The lessons in health education deal among other things with keeping the body, hair, clothes, shoes and homes clean. Sex education, and prevention methods for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are also taught.

The clinic, now in its splendid new premises, also gives first aid and small scale medical service to the school community. Headaches, worm infestations, minor skin wounds, etc. are the most frequent student health

problems. Treatment of minor infections is carried out at the clinic as are basic vaccination. Children with severe problems that cannot be treated at the clinic are accompanied by the school nurse to local health centres and hospitals.

The School Library

The school library has a wide range of books, periodicals, reference materials and teaching aids. There are over 7000 books in the library classified into different subjects. The reading room of the library is used by students, teachers and interested members of the school community except on Sundays and public holidays.

The library would be vastly improved with an influx of new, up-to-date books: although things are improving, too much of what is in stock is well past its sell-by date.

Funding

The revised school budget for 2017 has meant that the Fund is now (as of June 2017) sending £11,000 monthly out to the school. For a small charity, this a huge undertaking and will require a significant injection of extra core and one-off funding. We are working on this!

New Trustees

A total of 16 former volunteer teachers and donors (including spouses and adult children) attended the splendid opening ceremony of the new block in April 2017. Because of this, there was considerable enthusiasm to expand and re-enthuse the Asra Hawariat School Fund. We now have two confirmed new trustees, and two considering the post.

New website

We hope to have a new website www.asrahawariatschool.org up and running by mid-June 2017. Many thanks to Tim Hawthorne (volunteer teacher 1970-71) for all his hard work on this.

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Thanks

Thanks are due, once again, to our auditors, David Harrison and Co of Belfast, and to Print Revolution of Nottingham, who have kindly designed and printed this report. All without charge.

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.

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