



Information about the Achievement of Ethio Friends Foundation for Refugees (EFFR)

Introduction

Ethio Friends Foundation for Refugees (EFFR) was established in 2022 and was officially registered on **January 13, 2025**. It stands as the first formally registered **Refugee-Led Organization (RLO)** in Ethiopia. The foundation also holds the presidency of the **African Refugee Women Led Network (ARWNET)** and is a recipient of an **International Accreditation Certificate** from **(NGOsource)**.

Our Mission

Empower refugees from different nationalities and religions in developmental fields to facilitate their social inclusion into the local community through programs and activities in accordance with international and local laws.

Our Vision

Creating a productive and empowered refugee community capable of keeping pace with integrated development through training and rehabilitation programs.

The Objective

- Contributing to raise awareness among refugees in economic, social, health, cultural, and legal fields.
- Advocating for refugees' issues and supporting them in accessing essential resources and exercising their rights.
- Opposing gender-based violence.
- Contributing to the economic empowerment of refugees by providing training in entrepreneurship and improving living conditions.
- Supporting and assisting refugee children in education and reducing school dropout rates.

Programs of the Foundation

- Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Program
- Livelihood Program
- Protection and GBV Program
- Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Program (MHPSS)
- Child and Youth Program
- Happy Family Program
- Disability Support Program

Achievements of Ethio-Friends Foundation for Refugees (EFFR)

EFFR is distinguished by its continuity, impact, and ability to bridge critical gaps. Consequently, it has achieved numerous milestones in supporting and assisting refugees, as well as the most vulnerable groups within the host community. The most prominent achievements include:

First: Advocacy and Representation at Local and International Levels

EFFR has actively contributed to representing refugees both locally and internationally. In doing so, it represents refugees across Africa, amplifying their voices and ensuring their concerns are heard on the global stage.



II: Social Cohesion and Psychosocial Support We have strengthened social cohesion among refugees of various nationalities to unify their efforts in a collective response, promoting self-reliance in addressing shared issues.

In partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), we contributed to providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sessions and legal assistance to alleviate the suffering of refugees and enhance their psychological and social well-being.

Psychosocial support sessions for children through play.



III: Relief Assistance Financial Assistance: Provided cash support to 400 refugee and host community families during the month of Ramadan, funded by charitable donors.

Food Security: Distributed food baskets to 100 families from both the refugee and host communities.



IV: Legal Awareness Campaign: Implementation of the Ethiopian Labor Law Supported by the U.S. Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), we implemented a legal awareness project for refugees regarding the Ethiopian Labor Law under the theme "Let Your Voice of Success Heard." This project was carried out in partnership with the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) to empower refugees with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities and to protect them from exploitation.

Project Activities and Future Implementation Translation of the Ethiopian Labor Law: Translated the law into five languages specifically for refugee access.

Training Workshops: Conducted specialized training sessions for refugees regarding labor rights.

Awareness Materials: Designed and produced educational posters and brochures.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Organized targeted meetings to identify the specific needs and challenges of refugees within the labor market.

Current Progress We are currently in the process of implementing the second phase of the project, which aims to economically empower refugees. This phase is supported by the Hilton Foundation and is being carried out in Addis Ababa and the Gambella camps.



V: "Back to School" Project: A Leading Model for Educational Sustainability Our flagship education project, "Back to School: Supporting Refugee Children's Education in Lemi Kura Sub-city," supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), aims to reintegrate out-of-school children into the education system.

A field study we conducted involving 50 families revealed that nearly 100 children from these households were out of school due to several barriers—most notably the language barrier (Amharic), lack of documentation, shortage of school supplies, and poverty.

Key Project Activities: **School Supplies Distribution:** Distributed school bags and essential supplies to 25 children to encourage their return to the classroom.

Intensive Language Training: Provided a three-month intensive Amharic language course (reading and writing) for 40 children, using engaging and non-academic teaching methods.

Parental Committee Formation: Established a joint committee of refugee and host community parents to address the specific challenges faced by refugee students in schools.

Teacher Training: Trained educators in schools hosting refugee students on how to manage the psychosocial needs of refugee children.

Documentation Assistance: Facilitated the acquisition of necessary legal documents to streamline the school enrollment process for children.

A Call for Scalability and Support This project in Lemi Kura, Addis Ababa, serves as a pilot model that is ready to be scaled to other refugee-hosting areas following its proven success.

We take this opportunity to advocate for the support of Phase II of the "Back to School" project to cover all refugee regions in Ethiopia.

