



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Dear Friends,

Over the course of 2017, WEEMA expanded the scope of its community-based projects in Ethiopia, increasing our impact in the areas we serve. We have made incredible progress, and I am pleased to share a few stories of that progress with you in this report. We measure our impact by collecting tangible evidence of change: statistics such as the percentage of people with access to water, rates of school enrollment, and number of sick children receiving medical care. Behind these numbers are the stories of individual lives—men, women, and children who are living better lives today because of WEEMA's role in the community. We couldn't do it without the generous support of our donors, whose selflessness translates directly into programs that provide water, education, economic employment, and medical care for Ethiopian Communities.

Thank you for your support, and for believing in WEEMA's empowerment-driven and community-driven approach to development.

A Year of Impact


Liz McGovern,
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017



Meals for Kindergarteners

WEEMA has begun providing free daily meals to all of the 800+ students enrolled in our kindergartens in Mudula, Keleta, and Ferzano. These meals help young learners to focus on their schoolwork, which can be impossible on an empty stomach. WEEMA's kindergartens provide local children, many of whom would otherwise be at home doing chores or helping on the family farm, with an invaluable gateway to education and set them up for future success in school.

Safe C-section Deliveries

In January 2017, a WEEMA-sponsored OB/GYN performed a successful C-section delivery at Mudula Hospital. This was the first surgery ever completed at the facility. Now, expecting mothers in the community have the option of delivering safely by C-section should they encounter complications during pregnancy. During the procedure, the OB/GYN relied on a power generator WEEMA had previously donated. By providing trained staff and supplies, WEEMA aims to improve maternal and infant survival rates.



New Beekeeping Cooperatives

WEEMA worked with local honey producers to create three new beekeeping cooperatives in early 2017. By pooling their efforts and resources, beekeepers who participate in a cooperative can sell their honey at higher rates—earning more money to help support their families. Beekeeping enables rural farmers to diversify their income while boosting plant pollination rates, resulting in improved crop yields and better nutrition.

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2017 HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



1,000+ Receive Cataract Care

Organized in partnership with the Himalayan Cataract Project, WEEMA's 3rd annual cataract treatment campaign provided sight-restoring treatment to 1,132 people afflicted with vision impairment. The campaign was carried out over six days, with staff and volunteers working long hours to ensure that everyone who was screened and deemed eligible for treatment received cataract surgery and follow-up care. The procedure used to remove cataracts is safe, quick, and minimally invasive. WEEMA is planning to return for a 4th cataract campaign during the first half of 2018, with the goal of treating another 1,000 people afflicted by vision impairment at the hospital in Hosanna.

To see a video of the 2017 cataract campaign, visit <http://bit.ly/2D9guRV>

New WASH Projects Launched

WEEMA's new WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiative aims to improve community wellbeing by building latrines, creating handwashing stations, and promoting healthy sanitation practices in schools and public spaces. WEEMA is also working with communities to create WASH Committees that will exercise local control and leadership to maintain new infrastructure.



Library for Keleta High School

The high school in Keleta previously only taught students up to 10th grade; now, with WEEMA's support, the school is expanding to teach 11th and 12th grade. WEEMA is building a new library and computer center at the school that will provide a quiet study space for more than 4,200 students as they study for important national exams that determine eligibility for university enrollment.

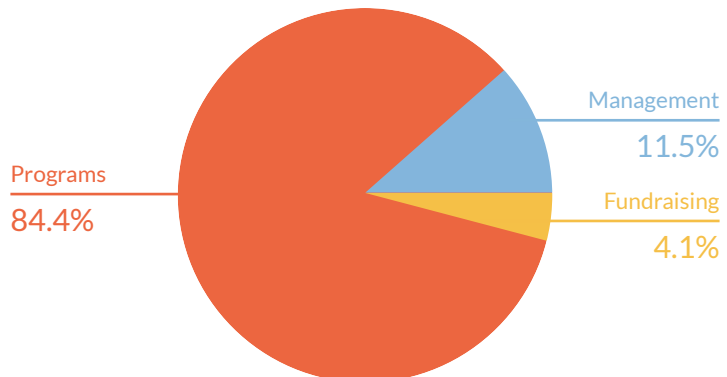


In partnership with Ready Set Go Books, WEEMA delivered 750 multi-language children's books to libraries and kindergartens in 2017.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Money Raised in 2017:	\$2,363,692
Program Expenses:	\$1,134,923
Management Expenses:	\$154,768
Fundraising Expenses:	\$55,126
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Total Expenses in 2017:	\$1,344,817

2017 Expense Breakdown:



Note: These values will be independently assessed during WEEMA's annual financial audit. This report will be subsequently updated to reflect any changes.