



‘የኢኮኖሚ አቅም’: EMPOWERMENT
THROUGH SKILLS TRAINING

AN UPDATE FROM ADAMA, ETHIOPIA

INTERVENTIONS
COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'VE MADE SO FAR

Prior to this intervention, caregivers of the children supported by Nazareth Full Gospel Believers Church Child Development Centre were struggling to provide two meals a day for their families. When times became particularly hard, they would have to leave their children with neighbours in search for work.

As a result of your support, the caregivers have grown their businesses further and added to their savings. Because of your generosity, caregivers have significantly increased their income and been able to feed their children and send their children not supported by Compassion to school. Most importantly, this income generating intervention has empowered these caregivers to take control of their futures and open opportunities for their children. Before this intervention, some of the caregivers had to resort to prostitution for income – this is no longer the case.



Halima sells fruits and vegetables. She began selling at a local market and plans to go into wholesale. From the original loan of 6,400 birr [£174.44] she received; she has earned 10,000 birr [£272.56].

The centre has continued to provide support by monitoring the caregiver self-help groups and providing refresher sessions on business skills training. The second round of the loans will be distributed in October.

Caregivers have been empowered to provide for their families as a result of this intervention. An added benefit is that overcoming poverty reduces feelings of anxiety – these caregivers are proud of their businesses and their ability to provide for their families.

SAVINGS AND CHALLENGES

The caregivers are still supporting one another in their self-help groups. There are two groups for goat, sheep and ox fattening, one group for making injera and one group for selling vegetables and fruits. Recently the 40 caregivers have made profits and saved 56,000 birr (£1,516.46).

- ✦ The animal rearing groups have saved 20,000 birr (£541.59).
- ✦ The injera selling business group have saved 16,000 birr (£433.28).
- ✦ The vegetable and fruit selling business group have saved 20,000 birr (£541.59)

These savings have been put into their self-help group savings account, which is in line with their business plans and agreed in their bylaw contracts. These are community agreements made by the caregivers to ensure each member contributes to their saving group. Group savings help the caregivers by providing continued access to finance for their businesses.



Alemitu has been selling vegetables and fruits at the market. Despite the struggles caused by nationwide inflation, she plans to expand her business.

On Thursdays, those involved in animal rearing sell their products at the local market. If they have an urgent need for money, they bring animals to the market to sell after three months of fattening. Ideally, they wait another month to fatten the animals further and make a larger return on investment. A main challenge for this group has been the local price escalation for animal feed. For the injera-making group, teff (flour) has also increased in price. Another challenge has been a lack of available electricity at the market, causing lighting shortages and disrupting business, especially for those selling injera. Caregivers have overcome this by buying a locally made burning stove for light.

THREE BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES

The stories of three mothers who have benefitted from this intervention show why your support was so needed and has been so impactful:

TIRUYE – A DIVERSIFIED INCOME

Tiruye has succeeded at using the entrepreneurial skills she has developed.

Before, Tiruye had difficulty meeting the needs of her family. As a result of this intervention, she received a 5,000 birr (£136.28) loan and used it to fatten sheep and sell them at the market. From the income generated, Tiruye was able to expand her income. She constructed two rooms to rent, which provide 2,100 birr (£57.24) a month. As her income and savings continue to rise, Tiruye plans to construct more rooms to rent. This has increased and diversified her income source, making her resilient to fluctuating livestock prices which affect her sheep-fattening business. The average monthly income for Tiruye's community is the equivalent of £9.83 a month – therefore earning £57.24 a month from rent is truly life changing.



Tiruye and her son Michele.

ABERU – NO LONGER SUFFERING FROM A SHORTGAE OF FOOD

Aberu can now pay for her family to access education and is planning to start another business. Before receiving her loan of 5,000 birr (£136.28) from the intervention, she was struggling to provide enough food for her four family members. Since the loan, she has been engaged in sheep and cattle fattening. Aberu sold her sheep and made a net profit of 3,000 birr (£81.77). With this, she bought three hectares of land in which she plans to plant wheat. With this increased income, the family no longer suffers from hunger. Moreover, she has been able to send her children not supported by Compassion to school. Because of your support, children in this family have been able to start their education. This will transform their futures.



Aberu and her children standing with their cattle.

ABIYOT – FROM MARKET SELLER TO WHOLESALER

Mother of four, Abiyot, has transformed her business from petty trade to wholesale. Using her 5,000 birr (£136.28) loan from the intervention, she started selling fruit and vegetables at the market. From the profit she made, she became a wholesaler and made a further profit of 10,000 birr (£272.56). As a result, she was able to enhance her business further. An increase in income had a huge impact on her family – Abiyot can now feed her children and send her children who are not supported by Compassion to school. For the children, the chance to go to school will open-up life-changing opportunities leading to a life beyond poverty.

In the coming months, Abiyot is planning to buy a dairy cow to diversify and grow her income further.



Abiyot with her wholesale produce.



Above, Agere and her daughter Tsadkannesh used to make an income from a horse and cart business but they sold that to sell food and soft drinks. They are currently saving 200 birr (£5.45) a day and have made 15,000 birr (£408.84) in total. Below, Ato, his wife and five children have used their loan of 5,400 birr (£147.18) to sell grass stuffed mattresses, plastic products, kitchen utensils and carpets. He has made a 10,000 birr (£272.56) profit and aspires to expand his business.





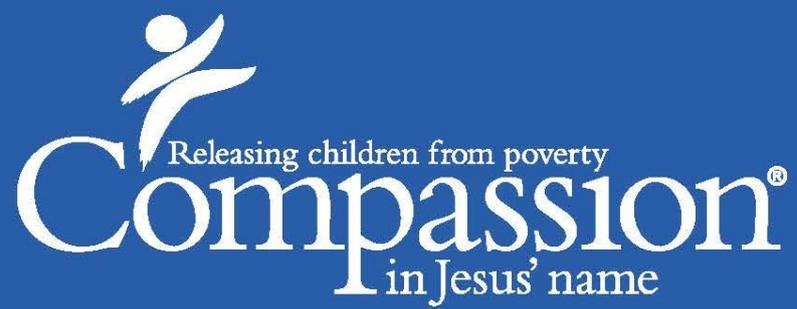
Ato and his wife, Zenebu, received 6,750 birr [£183.98] from the intervention. They save 50 birr [£1.36] every week and have saved 16,000 birr [£436.09] in total. Here, Ato and his son Tigistu are standing beside their sheep.

THANK YOU

Living day-to-day on an irregular income, causes feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. Many of the caregivers in this intervention were trapped in extreme poverty and unsure of their future.

The caregivers now have support and the business skills and start-up capital to become self-sufficient providers. So far, the caregivers have already made significant savings and been able to expand their businesses and send their children to school.

There are more success stories from this intervention in Ethiopia to come.



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