



**Enabling communities  
to help themselves**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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## 2020 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: EEL COVID RESPONSE

In 2019, we carried out our Covid response which was aimed at raising awareness of Covid 19 with adults with disability and children with disability, support them with improved sanitation and improved livelihoods. The latter is in particular to support adults with disabilities and families of children with disability who struggled economically during lockdown; for example those with land were not be able to afford to buy seeds to plant which could put their children with disabilities at risk of not returning to school post COVID.

The following activities were carried out.

- **COVID-19 awareness raising**
- Distribution of supporting materials: **soil fertilizer** (1250kg), **selected seeds** (312.5kg), **food oil** (850 litres) and **soap** (1,700 pieces).

There were a total of **170 direct beneficiaries** (M91 F79)-who were members of either 4 Disability Associations (M61 F52) or 3 Parent Support Groups (M30 F27) for parent/carers of children with disabilities.



**There were a total of 170 direct beneficiaries**



- **See Next Slide for a Case Study...**

## COVID RESPONSE CASE STUDY:

Mrs Zawde highlighted the impact of COVID-19 was palpable not only for her family but also with people who she does business with in the local market. She mentioned that people were very scared, initially to buy or sell anything in the market. Since her house is on a main road and her family relies on café business, which primarily serves market goers, Mrs Zawde told us that not many people were going to the market. Consequently, COVID-19 negatively impacted her business (i.e. far fewer people were using the café compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic) as well as her social life with her friends.

Mrs Zawde told us that all the seeds, fertiliser, soap and soil she received were a great help. She had sown the corn seeds and used the fertiliser to cultivate it well too. At the time of writing this case study the crop is ready to be harvested (as shown on the picture below). She is planning to send her daughter back to school.

Client name: **Mrs Zawde Lamessa (50)**

Location: Warra Babo, Wayu Tuka

Association: Parent Support Group

Child with disability represented:

Age: 13 years old

Sex: Female

Disability: Right hand and right foot

Grade: 5

### Support given:

50 Kilograms of seeds,  
fertiliser, soap and oil

*Mrs Zawde and  
her corn farm  
(the seeds were  
donated by our  
project)*



# 2020 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: LIBRARIES AND LITERACY

## Main headlines

- ✓ 10 School libraries supported with additional **furniture and books** (239 chairs, 36 tables and 13 shelves and 640 reference books)
- ✓ In December 2020, when schools re-opened **13,522 children visited the libraries** (5907 males and 7615 females) in the first month with just under **1000 books borrowed**.
- ✓ **34 Librarians Employed** with funding from EEL



Exeter Ethiopia funds 34 school librarians as part of their Libraries and Literacy Project. In addition to ensuring an open library, this also provides a young person with employment in an area where youth unemployment is approximately 40%

Of the 34 librarians, 18 are female and 16 are male. All reported using the money earned either to pay for further studies or to support themselves or their families. Two examples are below.

▪ **See Next Slide for a Librarian Case Study...**



## LIBRARIAN CASE STUDY

**Name:** Yobdar Tesfaye

**Age:** 23

**Gender:** Female

**Place of work:** Kiba Wacha Elementary School Library, Nekemte serves 1352 students (Male 642 and Female 710)

Yobdar, who is currently working as librarian in Kiba Wacha School is delighted that she is supporting herself financially since she first got employed as a librarian.

Despite the financial challenges she faced, Yobdar completed her secondary school back in 2015 and then completed her vocational training two years later. After facing difficult period of unemployment, she got the good news she has been waiting from Kiba Wacha School. She started a job as a librarian with a salary of 700 birr a month in 2017 with a pay rise of 200 birr a month in 2020.

Since her employment as a librarian Yobdar has managed to attend university to do a BSc in Economics with a night class in which she hopes to graduate in early 2021. Yobdar says it would have been almost impossible to study in higher education if it wasn't for the vital employment opportunity she managed to get through Kiba Wacha school. Yobdar pays 450 birr/month towards her tuition fee and she uses the rest of her salary for her transport to and from university and also to support her siblings. Life has been extremely difficult since she lost her mother a year ago and the huge impact of global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, increasing the financial insecurity even further within her family. Despite this, Yobdar took the challenge head on and managed to continue her studies this year. She now hopes after her graduation, her own IT business: internet café and computer repair centre.



*Yobdar in Kiba Wacha School library helping students use the library resource effectively.*

# THE ETHIOPIA CHALLENGE

We invited members and their friends and family to run, walk or cycle 10k (6 miles) on November 15th.

**This being the average distance a child walks to school in Ethiopia.**

We had lots of participation on social media and we received some lovely emails and photos of everyone out and about in the fresh air.

We would love to run a similar event and to hear ideas.

**We had 24 participants and raised not only £370 but also much interest and awareness.**



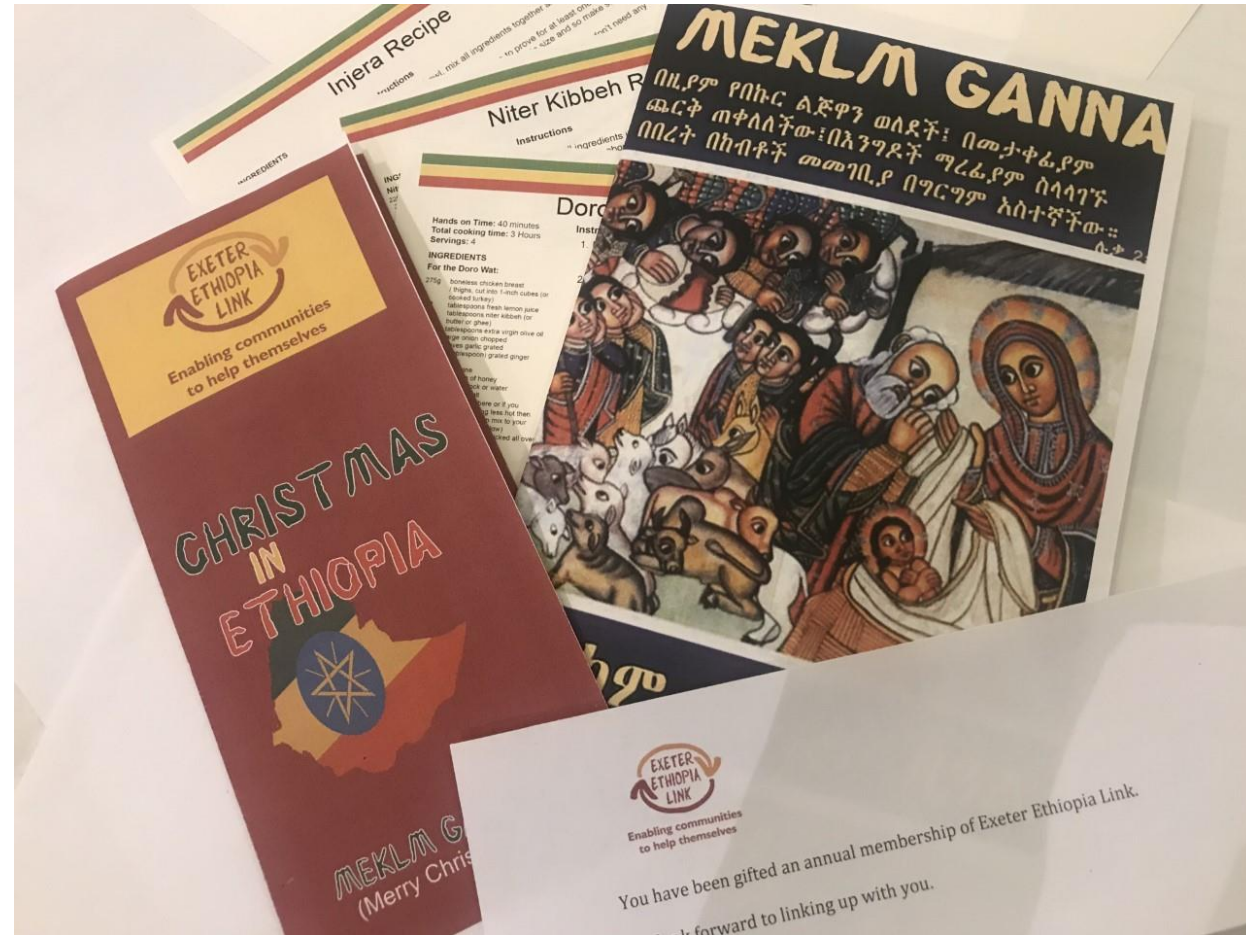
## EEL UPDATES: CHRISTMAS CARD INITIATIVE

Fundraising is challenging during a pandemic. As a board we not only want to raise funds but also to increase membership and give our members the opportunity to learn more about Ethiopia.

With this in mind we asked members to buy a membership as a Xmas gift.

We advertised this on social media and by email to our members. We then sent out a Christmas card, an informative leaflet on EEL and Ethiopian Christmas traditions together with recipes for a traditional celebratory meal. Some gift packs were sent by post and others by email.

**We achieved 17 new members and hope to build on this by repeating the offer in 2021.**



## EEL UPDATES: SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

To help raise awareness of EEL and spread the word, we are working hard to increase our presence on our social media channels. We now regularly post on our social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

With David's help we are linking and sharing content from our website to our social media channels which helps to increase visits to both.

Our most popular postings are those showing images of work being undertaken with our partner organisations who help to spread the word by sharing our postings on their social media.

We are always mindful of our responsibilities when sharing images of people and in line with our governance procedures always seek confirmation of permission to publish before sharing on our social media platforms.



**ExeterethiopiaLink**

@exeterethiopiaLink · Community  
132 Followers



**ExeterethiopiaLink**

@exeterethiopiaL · Community  
81 Followers



**ExeterethiopiaLink**

@exeterethiopiaLink · Community  
15 Followers

20 new  
followers  
since Oct

You can help spread the word by liking and sharing any posts from our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram postings. If you have any ideas for future postings please get in touch with Lee Davies - [swettenham.lee@gmail.com](mailto:swettenham.lee@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA: POSTINGS SHOWING SOME OF OUR BEST REACHES AND ENGAGEMENTS.

### Top Tweet earned 572 impressions

The team have been really busy these past 2 weeks working with [@\\_VAO](#) running a mobile eye clinic and [@cheshirethiopia](#) providing assistive devices to the disabled. All part of our [@UKAidDirect](#) project [pic.twitter.com/wltMbrljvv](https://pic.twitter.com/wltMbrljvv)



1 retweet 3 likes

### Top Tweet earned 641 impressions

Today is the final day of the Timkat celebrations. Over 3 days, Ethiopians traditionally commemorate Christ's baptism. Water is blessed & baptism vows are reaffirmed before feasting on Doro Wat & Injera. Have some fun cooking something new. Check our recipes <https://bit.ly/3sE0YEG> [pic.twitter.com/CKzPpvnFc0](https://pic.twitter.com/CKzPpvnFc0)



2 retweets 3 likes

View Tweet activity

View all Tweet activity

### Top media Tweet earned 612 impressions

EEL has worked with partner [@\\_VAO](#) to improve eye care in our project area. VAO have supported the government to set up a specialist eye unit at the local hospital. In Dec, 20 schools were trained in delivering eye screening. The aim is to provide eye care/glasses to 950 children. [pic.twitter.com/F2sNF2JZKu](https://pic.twitter.com/F2sNF2JZKu)



2 retweets 2 likes

View Tweet activity

View all Tweet activity

## EEL UPDATES: SCHOOLS

Until this year we have reported on the success of school to school linking – thirteen Devon schools have a thriving partnership link with schools in and around Nekemte. Letters have been exchanged, projects shared, and Devon schools have often supported their partner school with books and educational materials. Many thanks are due to our Education Manager in Nekemte, Mr Gobena Atomsa, for his unfailing support and encouragement which has made this possible.

Obviously the Pandemic has had a considerable impact on School Linking this year.

Last March Ethiopia entered a Lockdown as we did here and schools in both countries were closed. This was very sad as all thirteen Devon schools had made plans for projects to share with their partner schools in Nekemte, and unfortunately these plans were not able to be followed up.



Schools in both countries are now open, but must comply with Covid restrictions. In Ethiopia schools are now implementing extra shifts to establish some distancing. This means that some pupils are only able to attend 2 or 3 times a week.

We are only too aware of the issues that our UK schools are facing.

*Continued on next page...*

## SCHOOLS CONTINUED

Post is unreliable and since no visits to Ethiopia have been able to take place we have been unable to send any project materials or communications by hand.

This all sounds rather pessimistic. However most of the Devon Schools have remained in contact with us and are keen to continue their links with their Ethiopian partner schools as soon as is possible. We are very hopeful that this will not be too long.

With the extension of the shift system it has become even more vital that the Ethiopian school libraries are open to give students an opportunity to extend and embed their learning, so having a librarian is now crucial. Recognising this some Devon schools have continued to fund the employment of a librarian for their Ethiopian partner school.



Last year three Devon schools applied as a cluster to British Council for a reciprocal visit grant and were successful. Obviously visits could not happen last year. British Council have extended the date by which these visits should take place. We are just hopeful.

Through, Mr Gobena Atomsa, the Devon schools are sending messages of support and understanding to their linked partner schools in Nekemte.

## EEL UPDATES: MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- A big thank you to all our members who continue to subscribe to EEL and to those who donate to specific projects throughout the year.
- Membership is growing and currently stands at 120 members.
- With your help we hope that this will increase over the next year.
- So please spread the word:  
EEL Enabling Communities to Help Themselves

**CURRENT MEMBERS = 120**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Von Mathieson from Exeter Community Accounting is examining the accounts for January to December 2020 in line with account legislation, and will be available at the AGM.

The Link has finished 2020 with total funds of £51,869.73 (2019: £35,804). This increase is in part due to the funding cycle of our ongoing projects. We have received monies for the ongoing Inclusive Education Project and the Schools, Libraries and Literacy Project, and monies for the new Bike project. However the impact of Covid, and the suspension of the schools in Ethiopia, has meant that we have not had the same level of expenditure. This will be rectified as we continue in 2021 and projects reach fruition.

At the 2019 AGM we announced that we would be transferring some of the monies from the Health and Welfare restricted line to the hospital in Nekemte in order to access medical supplies to deal with Covid (£2912.96). These monies were sent through.

Last year we made the decision to list the restricted funds as the projects for which they are allocated, rather than by the donors who had sent us the money. We have begun this process as you can see from the accounts. This will mean it will be easier for project leaders, trustees and EEL members to see where our monies are being spent.

**The Link has finished 2020 with total funds of**

**£51,869.73**

**(2019: £35,804).**

### **Next Steps...**

EEL is making some alterations to financial processes. An interim budget will be prepared for the remainder of 2021, and a draft budget will be prepared for 2022 and presented to the Trustees for the December Trustees meeting. The preparation of the budget will give scope for the planning of events in 2022 when we can meet again face to face.

# GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ROLES

## TRUSTEES:

Continuing Trustees	Trustees Standing Down	Ex-officio Trustees	Candidates for Election
Emma Sarton (re-election)	Abi Williams (Secretary)	To be elected (Secretary)	Penny Pullen (Trustee)
Ella Sadler	Emma Sarton ( <b>up for re-election</b> )	Kirsten Pullen (Treasurer)	Dawn Swettenham (Secretary)
Annie Bainbridge			Liz Horsefield (Trustee)
Anna Pawlyn			
Dawn Swettenham			

# GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ROLES

## OFFICERS:

Role	Officer
General Secretary	To be Elected
Treasurer	Kirsten Pullen
Membership Secretary	Annie Bainbridge
Fundraising, social media, publicity	Gillian Dale, Annie Bainbridge, Gentian Dyer, Lee Davies
Website Editor	David Scarbrough
Projects Coordination	Maggi Aslet / Enable-Ed
Treasury Team	Kirsten Pullen; Von Matthieson