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Dir Biyabir 2025 Annual Report

February 3, 2026

OVERVIEW

Message From The Chairperson

Happy 2026, friends! I hope the new year has begun with peace and new energy for you and your loved ones. As Dir Biyabir approaches its 20th year, I've been reflecting on what we've accomplished together—and where our greatest opportunities lie.

Over the years, Dir Biyabir has gradually grown by showing that those of us in the West can make a real impact by funding grassroots projects that transform lives in Ethiopia. We've always made transparency and accountability central to our work, sharing updates, photos, and reports so you can see exactly where your generosity goes. *None of this would be possible without you and especially a very small but steadfast group of donors* who have carried this mission forward year after year. We are deeply grateful to them—their commitment keeps Dir Biyabir alive and strong.



Teff Seeds Distribution To Farmers in Bugna

At the same time, we know there's so much more we can do. *Imagine the possibilities if more of us joined this circle of regular donors.*

Each new hand that pitches in strengthens our ability to bring hope, and transform the lives of innocent suffering civilians. Dir Biyabir was built on the idea that unity creates strength—and we have a unique opportunity to live that out.

Behind the scenes, we have in Dir Biyabir, a very small group of dedicated volunteers in the West, raising funds for projects. Dir Biyabir works very closely with our outstanding project implementation partner in Ethiopia, Adheno Integrated Rural Development Association (Adheno IRDA - Adheno for short). Both teams pour their hearts into this work. The Dir Biyabir team earns no material compensation—just a shared belief in making a difference. The Adheno team works in an extremely challenging environment, sometimes even risking their lives to reach civilians living in areas under military conflict. They themselves face daily insecurity as well as economic hardship due to the rapidly devaluing currency. Their tenacity and transparency despite all these challenges, have shown how much impact just a few can create. *Now, think of what we could achieve together if our Dir Biyabir circle grew wider.*

Ethiopia, and especially the Amhara region, continues to face extraordinary hardship. But we have a chance to be part of the healing. *If each of us commits to a regular contribution, and invites two others to join, we could multiply our reach and deepen our impact almost overnight.*

Every strong movement starts with a few who believe—but it can only grow when others decide to stand beside them. I invite you to make 2026 the year we expand that spirit of giving and show what Dir Biyabir truly stands for: *strength in numbers to make lasting positive change.* Thank You All!

Leadership Team

In 2025 Dr. Tadesse Wolde transitioned out from our board and was replaced by Dr Alemtsehay Tsegaye. We thank Dr Tadesse for his support and welcome Dr Alemtsehay to the team. Sam Smith, and Yared Mengistu continue on our board. Late in 2025 Charlie Colosky had to step out of his role in the executive team as Treasurer due to personal commitments so we have an opening on our team. Please do let us know if you or anyone you know are

willing to serve as Treasurer. Current executive team is:

- Chairperson - Haeran Fisseha
- Secretary - Eminent Ayele
- Treasurer - Open

As always, all Dir Biyabir positions are voluntary and uncompensated. The executive team continues to cover all of Dir Biyabir operational expenses, to ensure that **100% of membership fees and donations are allocated to projects in Ethiopia.**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is simply a mechanism to raise funds for our projects in Ethiopia via membership fees. Membership fees are our only reliable and consistent source of revenue to fund projects in Ethiopia. **Since we do projects year after year including some multi-year projects, it is critical to have a sustained revenue stream.** As always 100% of membership fees and donations are allocated to fund one of our grassroots projects in Ethiopia. You are of course very welcome to donate any amount beyond the levels stated below.

- Diamond: \$1,000 per year
- Platinum: \$500 per year
- Gold: \$250 per year

Membership is **annual** and can be renewed simply by paying membership fees any time within the calendar year. Members are strongly encouraged to renew their membership as early in the year as possible. There are no additional responsibilities or benefits for being a member.

Membership fees are treated like donations, and like all other donations, **are 100% tax deductible and eligible for corporate match programs.** So please

do check with your employer if they have such a program and request a match for your membership fee payments and all your donations.

We highly encourage our members to auto-renew membership via PayPal on our website: <http://dirbiyabir.org/page/become-a-member> . You can select the “yearly” option when you donate so payment is automatic every year and you don’t need to remember to renew. This also frees up our scarce volunteer resources to focus on project execution rather than reminding members to renew, so we highly appreciate all auto-renewals!

New or Renewing Membership can also be paid by:

- 1) By Zelle (dirbiyabir@gmail.com)
- 2) Sending a check payable to Dir Biyabir (please include your **email address** for receipts) to:

Dir Biyabir
PO Box 914,
Mountain View, CA 94042

- 3) One-time payment via PayPal

<http://dirbiyabir.org/page/become-a-member>

PROJECT STATUS

Bugna (Wello) Emergency Relief

In February 2025 Dir Biyabir ran an [emergency fundraiser](#) to raised funds to provide emergency relief for civilians facing famine in the wereda (district) of Bugna in North Wello Zone, Ethiopia. This is a predominantly agrarian community that continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis due to military conflict, extreme weather, and denial of access to seeds and fertilizers. This has led to drastically reduced agricultural yields and widespread malnutrition. There were 2 phases, funded fully by Dir Biyabir and implemented solely by our partner Adheno.

Phase 1 (April 7) - Focused on preventing death of people and animals

- Delivered emergency food (30,000kgs raw wheat and 13,000 kgs of teff) for 4,712 people in Ayna, Qub, and Birquaqua areas
- Delivered veterinary medicine for 100,000 cattle, sheep and goats to prevent their imminent death

Bugna was/is an area in active military conflict so Adheno took significant risk by accompanying the aid to ensure it reached the right place.

Please [click on the video below](#) for Phase 1 details



Phase 2 (May to June) - Focused on sustainable aid, i.e. helping farmers to go back to producing food

- Distributed 22,000kgs of wheat seeds to 587 households who planted 146.75 hectares of land
- Distributed 8,000 kgs of teff seeds to 800 households who planted 400 hectares of land (1 hectare of land requires only 20kgs of teff seeds but 150kgs of wheat seeds)
- Expected yield of 322,850kgs of wheat and 600,000kgs of teff. Total 922,850kgs of grain

1 hectare = 10,000 square meters

We are thrilled to report that the farmers were able to harvest their wheat and teff crop in December and local extension workers were able to visit some of the wheat farmers and assess their yield. Teff harvest sadly could not be assessed due to conflict in the areas where teff was planted.

- The expected wheat yield of 2,200 kgs/hectare has been achieved on average
- Some farmers exceeded the average by harvesting 700kgs from their 1/4 hectare plot (aka “timad”) i.e. 2,800 kgs/hectare
- Some farmers produced less than the average by harvesting 500kgs from their 1/4 hectare plot (aka “timad”) i.e. 2,000 kgs/hectare

Please [click on the video below](#) for details including interviews with the farmers on their harvest



Semain Shewa Biruh Aimiro College Scholarship Program

On October 11 2025, our partner Adheno held the Fourth Annual Award of the “Semain Shewa Biruh Aemiro” (ie N.Shewa Bright Minds) Scholarship Program at colorful ceremony at Debre Birhan University. A new batch of the top 6 boys and the top 6 girls in N. Shewa (based on their scores on the 2025 national 12th grade exam) were awarded this scholarship.

Thus far a cumulative 38 students have been awarded this scholarship. Mehal Medal Secondary School currently leads with the most scholarship awardees (10) followed by Shewarobit Secondary (7). 90% of the scholarship cost is funded by 2 Dir Biyabir donors and the remaining 10% is covered by Dir Biyabir general funds.



Awardees in front row at the ceremony

Over the last four years, the visibility of and interest in this scholarship program has been growing immensely with students in various high schools in N.Shewa working

harder every year to achieve better results and win this scholarship.

This scholarship program aims to support the top students in N.Shewa (whose families may be poor farmers) and ensure they get all the resources they need to succeed in their studies. Though public university tuition is free in Ethiopia, there are many expenses that make it very challenging for kids from poorer backgrounds to succeed.

The students each receive a brand new laptop computer (in their second year), a generous monthly stipend, and all material required for incoming

freshmen including: bedding items, sportswear, luggage, etc. The monthly stipend covers all essential items including reference books, photo copying expenses, and toiletries. The monthly stipend continues for 5 years until the students graduate. We wish all the best to these bright, highly motivated, and hard-working kids.

Please [click on the video below](#) for the award ceremony and messages from the students.



Key Highlights

- Ceremony was attended by families of the awardees, high school principals, education experts, various local officials, and 361 students and 21 teachers from Debre Birhan University’s boarding program for top high school students
- Last year’s scholarship awardees shared their experiences and tips on how to thrive on university campus away from home
- Students were called to draw inspiration from local heroes like Emperor Menelik II and Ras Abebe Aregay.
- High school principals shared the impact of this program in motivating their students to excel
- Students continue to enroll in Ethiopia's premier institutions, with Medicine and Engineering being the top fields of study and Addis Ababa University (AAU) hosting the largest number of recipients.

Debre Birhan Area School Rehabilitation & Re-stocking

Thousands of schools have been closed in the Amhara region for over 2 years due to military conflict. This prolonged school closure has had an enormously damaging impact on over 4 million kids in the Amhara region. In 2025 there have been limited efforts to re-open some schools which Dir Biyabir supported

In September, Dir Biyabir funded a project to rehabilitate schools damaged by conflict in N Shewa, as well as to support students returning to school after 2 years of school closure. This project has multiple phases and it was implemented by our long-time partner in Ethiopia, Adheno.

In Phase 1 (September 1 to 30), stationary was provided to 2,681 students in 12 rural primary schools around the city of Debre Birhan in the N. Shewa region. Preliminary repairs were also completed on Workegur Primary School. Handing out stationary encouraged students to return to school and also to convince their friends to come back to school

Stationary was distributed to students in the rural schools listed below and included 30,112 exercise books, 9,076 pens, 11,136 pencils, 2,269 rulers, and 5,362 erasers.

Primary Schools Where Stationary Was Delivered:

Workegur Primary, Tach Milki Primary, Angolela Primary, Weyin Abadera Primary, Lay Milki Primary, Birze Ager Primary, Zanjira Primary, Dilla Primary, Elezef Primary, Engicha Primary, Kenbere Primary, Hidasse Primary

Please [click on the video below](#) for Phase 1 details



In Phase 2 (November 25) : uniforms were purchased and distributed to 200 of the neediest children at Zanjira Primary School. Most (about 70%) of these 200 are children whose families were



Uniforms being handed out

forcibly removed from the outskirts of the capital city, Addis Abeba, due to their Amhara ethnicity. These families saw their homes being bulldozed and are now displaced and scattered all over without a permanent

home and find themselves in a very tragic situation. Some of these families have settled in the Debre Birhan area. All of the kids from displaced families were given uniforms and stationary. It is inspiring that despite their severe trauma, these kids are cheerful and enthusiastic to go back to school. We hope and pray that their situation improves.

Please [click on the video below](#) for Phase 2 details



School Sponsorship - N.Shewa

The school sponsorship program was proposed by our local partner Adheno to sponsor the education of girls in seven kebeles in Bassona Worana Wereda in Northern Shewa. Adheno identified that there were many girls in the area who wanted to attend school but were unable to afford even basic school material. In 2014 Dir Biyabir had sponsored 139 elementary school girls and 28 secondary school girls, and the sponsorship program has continued ever since.

The elementary school sponsorship program is a basic program whereby school supplies are purchased. We have expanded this program to cover 200 (up from 150 last year), elementary school kids whose families can not afford to buy school supplies for their kids. This is in addition to the school rehabilitation program that we implemented in September to support the re-opening of schools that were closed due to military conflict.

The high school sponsorship program covers the cost of rent (as high schools are far from home) as well as school supplies and basic necessities. Dir Biyabir sponsorship starts at 9th grade and covers all of high school, then continues to the end of university or college/technical training for each sponsored girl that continues her education. All sponsored students are girls from families who can not fund their education.

Thus far of the high school students we sponsored, 11 have graduated from technical college and 6 have graduated from university. We currently have 4 students still in their university program.

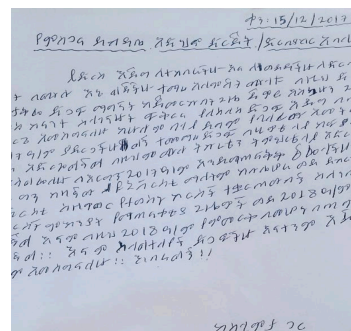
Last year we featured one of our students, Mulu (name changed for privacy), who has a remarkable story of resilience in the face of tragedy. In 2025 Dir Biyabir continues to provides an extra level of support for Mulu given her especially tragic and challenging story.

Mulu's Story in 2025

Mulu (name changed for privacy) was born in the wereda (district) of Bassona Worana. Mulu lost both parents at a young age (mom abandoned her and dad died), and she was raised by her grandparents. Mulu was an eager and bright student. Tragically When she was 13 years old, she was raped and got pregnant. She gave birth when she was 14 years old

Due to her challenging situation, the district Women and Children Affairs Office introduced her to our local partner Adheno. Thus Mulu entered Dir Biyabir's school sponsorship program in 2015 and she has continued in this program ever since. Several years ago Mulu moved to Debre-Birhan to live with her aunt. When Mulu entered university under our sponsorship program, her aunt took care of Mulu's daughter while Mulu went off to her assigned university far from Debre Birhan.

Mulu was a 4th year student in Marketing Management when tragedy hit again. Her aunt, who had been caring for her daughter passed away. This was a huge and personal loss for Mulu but she had to stay strong. She transferred to Debre-Birhan University to be close to her daughter and decided to live off campus in a rented house so she could be with her child. Mulu's daughter is now thirteen and in seventh grade. Mulu had to start working in a teahouse to support herself and her daughter.



Mulu's letter

Since 2024 we have been sending additional funds for Mulu to ensure she would not need to work and can focus on her daughter and her studies.

Mulu has written a letter to thank Dir

Biyabir for the continued support over many years. We pray for her and wish her much success!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Revenue		
Membership Fees		22,616.74
General Donations from Individuals		3,591.06
Donation for Partner Operating Expense Support		5,865.00
Bugna Emergency Relief Fundraiser		20,441.39
Rehabilitating Schools in N Shewa Fundraiser		30,200.00
Donations for N.Shewa Biruh Aemro Scholarship		50,000.00
Year-end Fundraiser		13,852.20
Total micro-grants (United Way, PayPal Giving Fund)		82.78
Bank Interest		4.70
Reversed Transactions		69.82
Donation from Dir Biyabir management team for operating expenses		850.00
Total 2025 Revenue		147,573.69
Expenses		
Grants Paid Out		163,269.28
School Girl Sponsorship	4,061.00	
N.Shewa Biruh Aemro Scholarship	26,931.00	
Rehabilitating Schools in N Shewa	45,200.00	
Bugna Emergency Relief Fundraiser	81,213.00	
Partner Operating Expense Support	5,864.28	
Operating Expenses		885.45
Cloud Subscription	29.99	
Domain Registration	45.34	
Error Transaction (reversed)	29.82	
Government Filing Fees	95.00	
Meeting Tools Subscription	163.10	
P O Box rental fees	200.00	
Tax Preparation Fees	167.20	
Bank/Wire Fees	155.00	
Total 2025 Expense		164,154.73
Total 2025 Revenue Less Total 2025 Expense		-16,581.04
2025 Starting Balance		123,336.02
2025 Ending Balance		106,754.98
Actual 2025 Ending Balance		106,756.34
2025 Discrepancy (Calculated Year-End Balance - Actual Year-End Balance)		-1.36
2025 Adjusted Ending Balance		106,756.34

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

Stated 2025 Goals	Actual 2025 Accomplishment
Implement emergency relief for famine victims in Bugna region of Wello	Sustainable emergency relief successfully delivered to Bugna including emergency food, veterinary medicine and wheat/teff seeds for planting. The veterinary medicine and seeds have supported the recovery of this fragile community. An estimated 923,000kgs of grain (Teff and wheat) were harvested in December from Dir Biyabir funded seeds.
Follow-up projects for IDP in Bakelo and Debre Birhan area	No follow up
Fund micro-enterprise for women victims of war	No women micro-enterprises funded in 2025, planned for 2026
Continue scholarship programs	Both scholarship programs successfully funded
Support community libraries in N.Shewa	Prioritized Bugna emergency relief - no libraries funded, have identified potential donor to fund library directly
Develop and implement new projects to rebuild communities in Amhara region devastated by war	Successfully funded project to rehabilitate war damaged schools in N Shewa - stationary for 2,681 students, uniforms for 200 students, and funding to repair 2 schools
Expand membership base	No initiatives to increase membership were implemented
Enhance presence on social media: LinkedIn, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube	Continued to develop project update videos and post to YouTube channel and LinkedIn. No new social media initiatives

GOALS FOR 2026

- Focus on entrepreneurship to address large unemployment issue in N. Shewa: develop high-impact entrepreneurship projects in collaboration with Adheno and other local partners
- Fund a second round of teff/wheat seed distribution for farmers in Bugna, Wello.
- Fund additional repairs/construction of schools damaged by conflict in N Shewa and provide basic school supplies
- Fund all projects in pipeline including recurring projects like scholarship programs
- On-board additional new member of executive team
- Significantly expand membership base and/or donations
- Start social media channel as a more efficient tool to update members and donors
- Work with Adheno on ensuring sustainability of that organization

Thank You To Our Donors and Members



Kids getting uniforms at Zanjira Primary

We thank YOU, the members and donors of Dir Biyabir for enabling us to implement these critical, life-saving and life-changing projects in Ethiopia in 2025. One thing we can clearly see is that with highly effective, competent, and transparent local partners like Adheno, meager funds can be stretched to make a very high impact on people's lives.

The tragedies and injustices in Ethiopia are seemingly endless, and our impact may seem like a drop in the bucket. However for the few thousands that we do reach, it is life-changing. ***The more of you that support us, the more people we can reach.***

Our name is inspired by an Ethiopian proverb “**Dir Biyabir Anbessa Yassir**” (ድር፡ቢያብር ፡አንበሳ ፡ያስር) - It translates to “when spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion”. This proverb is an illustration of **Strength in Numbers**. ***You our members, are our web, and the more of you we have the stronger our web and the more challenges we can address. So please support us, and continue to support us every year. We also rely on you to encourage your friends and family to join so we can grow in impact.*** Please help us spread the word!

Thank you all so very much for your support in 2025, we look forward to working with you to transform even more lives and livelihoods in Ethiopia in 2026. We pray for a more just and peaceful year!