



WEEMA
INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING
ETHIOPIAN
COMMUNITIES



WEEMA International is a non-governmental organization working in southwestern Ethiopia. Our goal is to work with local communities to create conditions in which people can thrive and dream about a brighter future.

Many Ethiopians do not have access to some of the basic necessities for human survival and dignity—clean water, education, economic opportunity and adequate healthcare. When we can meet those needs, through community-driven collaboration, we can dramatically improve people's quality of life and make the world a better place.

AREAS OF FOCUS

WATER

When a community's water is not potable, Ethiopian women and children spend an inordinate amount of their time fetching water. It's time that could be spent getting an education or managing a small business. Bringing clean water to a community makes all of our other initiatives possible. Children can go to school, women can go to work and the entire community reduces its risk of contracting water-borne illnesses.

A newly installed gravity flow water system at Koshinda Spring brought clean water to eight public water taps in the town of Mudula and the rural village of Bohe.

EDUCATION

Families in the Kembata-Tembaro region desperately want to send their children to school. While tuition is usually free, barriers to entrance include the cost of uniforms and other fees, a lack of schools within their geographic area and the inability to spare their children from farming or water carrying work. WEEMA works with partners to build community libraries and schools and support scholarships that help combat some of those barriers.



WEEMA International helped launch a kindergarten in the Kembata-Tembaro region. Reaching children early is extremely important to ensuring their long-term academic success.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Many Ethiopians practice subsistence living, which allows them to feed their families but doesn't help them prepare for the unexpected—a drought, a bad crop or a family member's illness. WEEMA International supports economic development projects that underwrite business trainings, savings support groups, micro-grants, vocational skills trainings and agricultural initiatives.



WEEMA International's self-help groups provide a safe place for women to talk about their struggles and gain financial literacy.

HEALTHCARE

Ethiopia has some of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world. Supporting the establishment and upkeep of rural health clinics is only part of the challenge. Areas such as the Kembata-Tembaro region need a greater number of trained medical professionals who are willing to work in remote settings. Many communities lack so much as a midwife. Maternal child health is a top priority.

WEEMA runs supply drives to stock rural medical clinics and also provides scholarships to local women who attend midwifery school and return to their communities to establish practices.

LEND YOUR SUPPORT

GIVE TO THE GENERAL FUND

When you support our general fund, you allow WEEMA International to put your money to use where we believe it is most needed.

SUPPORT A SPECIFIC PROJECT

At any given time we are typically fundraising for at least three to four individual projects. The projects touch our areas of focus and allow donors with specific interests in water, education, economic development or healthcare to target their giving.

VISIT WWW.WEEMA.ORG TO DONATE



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WHY THE WORD WEEMA?

The word 'weema' is a meaningful one in Tembarsa, the local dialect spoke in the Kembata-Tembaro Zone of Ethiopia. It can mean something that carries all the necessary or important elements in it, and it also is an expression of optimism, hope, positivity, perfection and fullness or wholeness. It signifies something all encompassing.

We capitalize WEEMA because, for us, the word is also a powerful acronym—it stands for water, education, economic development and medical care. The 'A' signifies our alliance and solidarity with the community, which is the anchor of all our work.