

Bees for Development

Bees for Development established a Beekeeping Centre in Ethiopia in 2012 to train chronically poor people to create income from beekeeping.



Shide admiring his honey crop



A classroom session at the Centre



Shide building a hive with his family

The Centre has been a huge success - raising annual incomes by an average of 42% in its first year. We need your support to enable us to continue the work we are doing here - we are changing people's lives by providing them with sustainable livelihoods - enabling them to buy food and medicines for their families.

**The average
annual household
income in the
region is \$290**

26% of the population in Bahir Dar are classified as chronically poor. One such person, Mr Shide Gete was in our first training group. He had no food security, owned little land, and having no oxen, could not plough his land. He and his older children worked as hired labour. With us, he learned how to keep bees and produce a honey crop without any financial investment. He learned to make hives from freely available local materials and of course, the bees are available from the wild, feed

themselves, and require little work once established. Shide's honey crop was 80kg in his first year - which sold for \$140. This has made a huge difference to his family's life, enabling him to buy clothes for his children and medicine for the family. Shide will increase his income year on year as he develops his beekeeping business selling more honey and beeswax.

Starting in September 2014, the Beekeeping Centre in Bahir Dar plans to support 50 women-headed households, 50 subsistence farmers and 100 young people to enter the local market for honey and beeswax.

We do this by giving participants the means and skills to sell around 70kg of honey per year. Our solution combines training courses in beekeeping, **and** business advice on how to access the best markets.

On average it costs us \$300 to support one person throughout the two years it takes them to become a successful, profitable beekeeper. The skills they learn

**This Project aims
to increase annual
income by 40%**

during this time are the first steps in generating a lump sum, which can be invested in other assets such as hens or sheep, and so building a secure future.

We assess our impact by tracking the number of beekeepers trained in each phase of the programme. We stay in contact with beekeeping families and youth groups, and we keep records of the number of colonies they own and the volumes of honey and beeswax they sell each year. This enables us to know that we are changing lives for the better.

You can help us to make a real difference for these people - the poorest of the poor - by donating towards this Project. Please help us.

