



Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

2008-09

Supporting education through: School Linking
Resourcing Projects
Child Sponsorship
Volunteer Teaching



**Annual Report & Accounts
of
Link Ethiopia**

6th April 2008 to 5th April 2009

**Registered Charity Number
1112390
Registered in England and Wales**

**St George's Church,
Crayford Road,
London, N7 0ND**

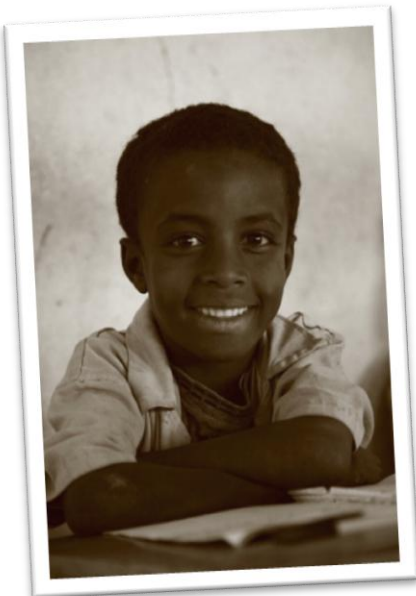
Welcome from the Director

This has been a challenging but highly successful year for Link Ethiopia. We have expanded the number of schools involved in linking to 74 (in the UK and Ethiopia) and our work to improve education now reaches over 60,000 children in Ethiopia. Despite challenging economic circumstances, we have raised over £53,000 this year, thanks to everyone's generosity and support. This funding is helping many more disadvantaged children to escape the cycle of poverty through access to better education and fostering closer ties between young people across the world.



Improving education is vital in helping disadvantaged people to build better lives for themselves. Educated children are more productive at home, better paid in the workplace and more able to participate in social, economic and political decision-making as well as being less vulnerable to disease, exploitation and abuse. Education is the cornerstone of a society's development.

Ethiopia is working hard to achieve universal primary enrolment, with many more schools being opened in rural areas. However, there is still much to do. Only half of Ethiopia's children finish primary school and less than a fifth of those go on to complete their secondary schooling. This problem particularly affects girls who are often kept at home to help with housework or raise younger siblings. Providing adequate infrastructure and resources for schools is a great challenge for a heavily indebted country like Ethiopia which is why our infrastructural projects are so important. When children have the chance to attend schools with clean, safe drinking water, sanitary toilet facilities, adequate classrooms and well resourced libraries, attendance and achievement are given a significant boost. Working with a community to develop a school they feel proud of greatly increases their sense of ownership and keenness for education too.

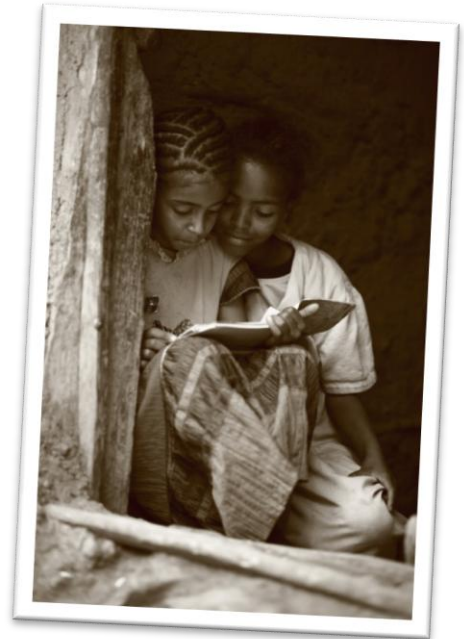


This year, I am really proud of our team's hard work in overcoming many challenges to make sure we are funding projects all year round, which is why our expenditure has increased significantly to £58,912. During the year we funded a range of projects in urban and rural schools, including building classrooms, toilet blocks and libraries, all of which will benefit thousands of children for years to come.

We have also completed a six month research study into education in the Gondar region which will allow us to improve our educational projects in future, focusing on solutions to the biggest educational challenges in the communities where we work. Research took place in Gondar Zuria, a much more rural area to the south of Gondar where communities are significantly poorer and the challenges children face to get an education are much greater. We have

identified new partners for linking and new schools for projects and hope to expand our work to help marginalised communities in this area.

We have continued to expand our work linking schools between the UK and Ethiopia. Encouraging young people to learn about and communicate with their peers in other countries will give them the skills they need to navigate our increasingly globalised society. We are working hard to improve our service to schools, which is why we have introduced termly school resource packs, full of exciting resources, activities, posters and stories. Our curriculum packs this year focused on the subject of food, and have encouraged schools to get involved exchanging displays and recipes of their favourite foods, supplementing the pen-pal letter exchanges which already happen several times a year.



Elsewhere, our volunteer teacher scheme has continued to offer immersive, eye-opening experiences for volunteers from the UK as well as helping many young Ethiopians to improve their language skills by conversing with a native speaker. This year at last saw our first female volunteers make the trip to Gondar, where they are always welcomed enthusiastically.

Our Child Sponsorship programme has been growing steadily too, helping the most vulnerable children to stay in school and make the most of their education. Sadly, many poorer children find the price of basics such as pens, books and stationery out of their reach so child sponsorship fills a vital gap in the system. I am always touched when reading the personal messages in the colourful, hand-drawn cards sponsors receive from their sponsored children.

In the next few pages, we highlight some of the achievements in the different areas in which we work. I hope you will enjoy reading our report and will be inspired to support us to change the lives of even more disadvantaged children in the coming year. Let me say a big thank you to all our supporters, staff and volunteers. Without their generosity and hard work none of this would be possible.

Chris Grant

Director, Link Ethiopia

Our Vision

Link Ethiopia's vision is one of an equal and just world in which poverty and social injustice are eradicated and basic human rights and a decent quality of life are assured.

We believe education is a vital tool in the promotion of understanding and one which can give disadvantaged children the means to achieve their full potential as tomorrow's global citizens.

Our Mission

Our two main aims are:

- to provide access to quality education for children of all ages in Ethiopia, with the broader aim of empowering people to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.
- to foster positive communication and interaction between people of different cultures in order to raise awareness of similarities, shared goals and our global interdependence.

What we do

School Linking

We set up, support and help manage links between English-speaking schools, mostly in the UK, and schools in Ethiopia, at both primary and secondary levels. In all our linking



activities we encourage equality and shared experience. By encouraging young people to communicate and work together, we aim to create a real awareness not only of the diversity that exists between them but also of their shared aims and ambitions. We support schools in every aspect of their link, encouraging them to engage in regular communications and a range of joint learning activities, with the aim of building successful, productive, and long-term friendships.

Resourcing Projects

Most of the schools we work with in Ethiopia are severely under-resourced. We therefore assist them in identifying, implementing and managing projects to improve the quality of the schooling they offer. This may involve basic necessities such as clean running water, adequate classrooms, the training of teachers in computer skills, or the management of libraries in larger schools. We work with schools in both rural and urban areas and we strive to enable all of our schools to deliver suitable education for the needs of their community.

Volunteer Teaching

Our Volunteer Teaching programme places volunteers in Ethiopian schools for varying periods of time to teach English, provide computer training and help with sports coaching. Our volunteers are accommodated in local families and work alongside the local community. This is an excellent opportunity for people of any age to immerse themselves in a fascinating and vibrant culture, take on a variety of new challenges, make a difference to the lives of young Ethiopians and make many new friends. This scheme directly supports Ethiopian education by giving pupils a chance to practise English with a native speaker, learn valuable computer skills or try new sports!

**Child Sponsorship**

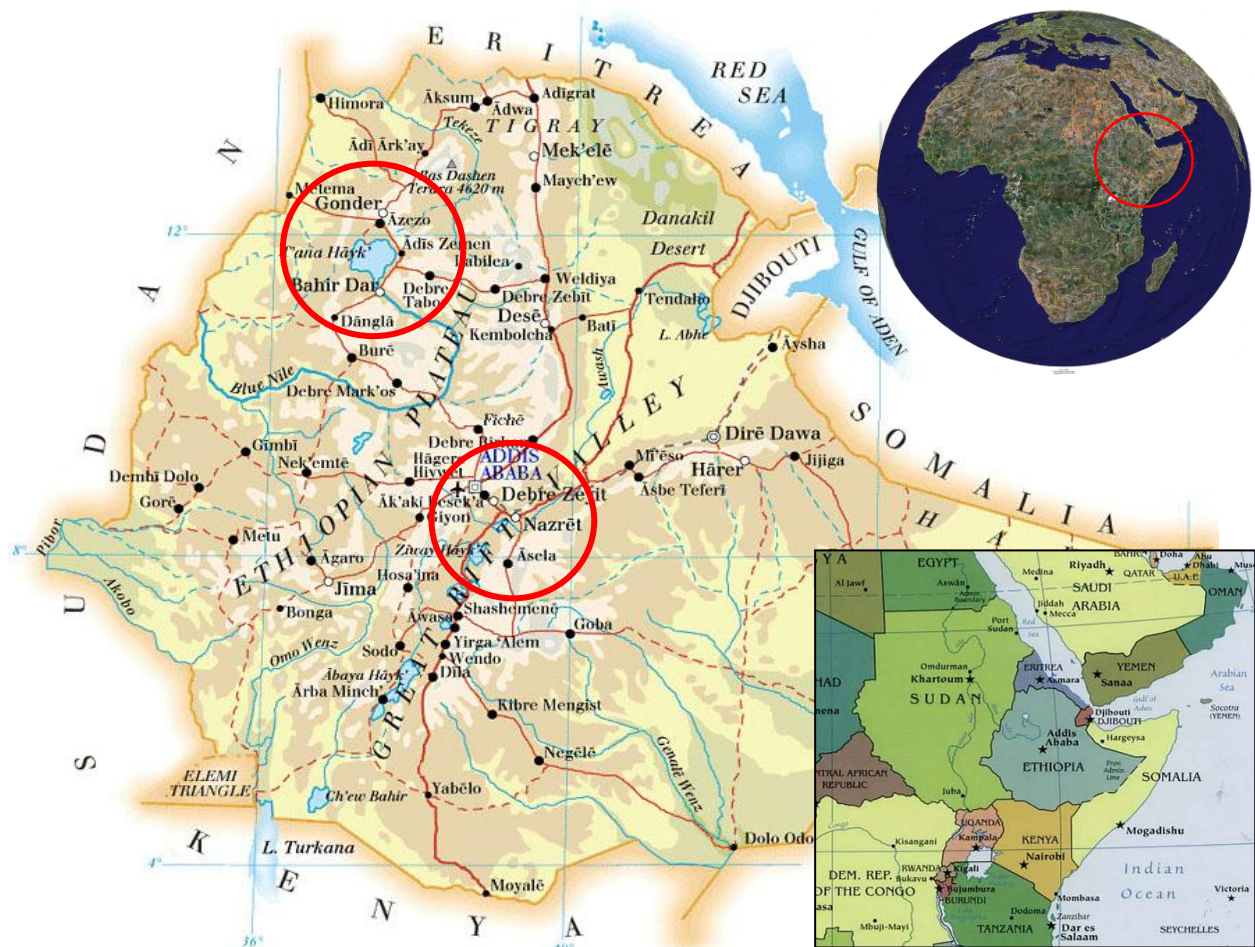
Our Child Sponsorship scheme supports the most vulnerable children and allows them to attend school regularly. Link Ethiopia works with schools to identify particular children, often orphans, who are at risk of dropping out because they cannot afford the basics necessary for schooling: books, pens and uniforms. A sponsored child receives a uniform, books, school stationery and anything else they may individually require (such as school meals or extra tuition). Sponsorship also benefits the wider community by supporting infrastructure projects such as classrooms, toilets, clean running water and libraries.



Where we work

We currently work in two main areas of Ethiopia. In the north, we are based in the ancient city of Gondar, capital of the country for nearly three hundred years from the seventeenth century onwards. We work primarily in the town and the rural areas surrounding it. We are constantly expanding our work, extending our help to the many schools around the shores of Lake Tana and down to Bahir Dar, another major town in the region.

In December 2008, we opened a second office in Bishoftu / Debre Zeit and this is allowing us to expand our work into the south of Ethiopia. We have also started to approach schools in the capital, Addis Ababa.



Achievements in 2008/2009

School Linking



We have increased the number of our school links to around 40 of which about three quarters are primary schools and one quarter secondary.

Several of our UK secondary schools have received our help in organising student group trips to Ethiopia to visit their link schools and these have, without exception, been remarkably satisfying experiences for both the young people and their teachers.

We have increased our provision of school resource packs to one posting per term to all schools and these include:

- Classroom activities, learning materials and assembly presentations produced by us and made also available online
- DVDs of educational programmes focusing on Ethiopia
- CDs of Ethiopian music
- African stories
- Posters

In conjunction with the resource packs, we have launched a 'Shared Learning Activity' programme, encouraging students in linked schools to work together on a project. This year, schools have been finding out about food in the other country, sharing recipes, telling of their eating traditions and investigating what makes a healthy diet.

All UK schools linking through Link Ethiopia are now asked for an annual subscription to help cover our support costs.

School link fundraising, usually towards specific projects in their Ethiopian link school, is increasing. £17,645 was raised during the year, compared with £12,789 in the previous year.

Volunteer Scheme

Six teaching volunteers worked in Gondar during the year. They stayed for varying periods and involved themselves in English teaching at primary and secondary level, as well as some computer training. Drama and creative writing workshops were also organised.



Child Sponsorship

The Child Sponsorship scheme started in early 2008. We now have over 30 sponsors, significantly more than the year before.

Resourcing Projects

1. Construction of eight new classrooms in rural schools to allow nearly a thousand more children to attend school.
2. Classroom furniture provision for five classrooms, improving conditions for around six hundred children. Refurbishment of a classroom in an urban elementary school.



3. Construction of four toilet blocks in urban schools to improve general health and hygiene. These toilet blocks will cater for over 4000 students.
4. Provision of improved technology in various schools and installation of internet in two urban secondary schools.
5. Provision of a new staff facility in a secondary school.
6. Construction of two elementary school libraries and the provision of library books at both elementary and secondary schools in the area.

7. Funding the first Sports Day for an elementary school.

8. Custom made football kits received by six Ethiopian schools for their teams, funded by Procter & Gamble.

Other

Gift Ethiopia was successful again this year, raising £6,294 towards projects in Ethiopia. This success was due to the increased popularity of the Gift Ethiopia website, as well as the marketing of the scheme amongst parents in our linked schools.

We have an updated Memorandum of Understanding between Link Ethiopia and the Ministry of Education in Addis.

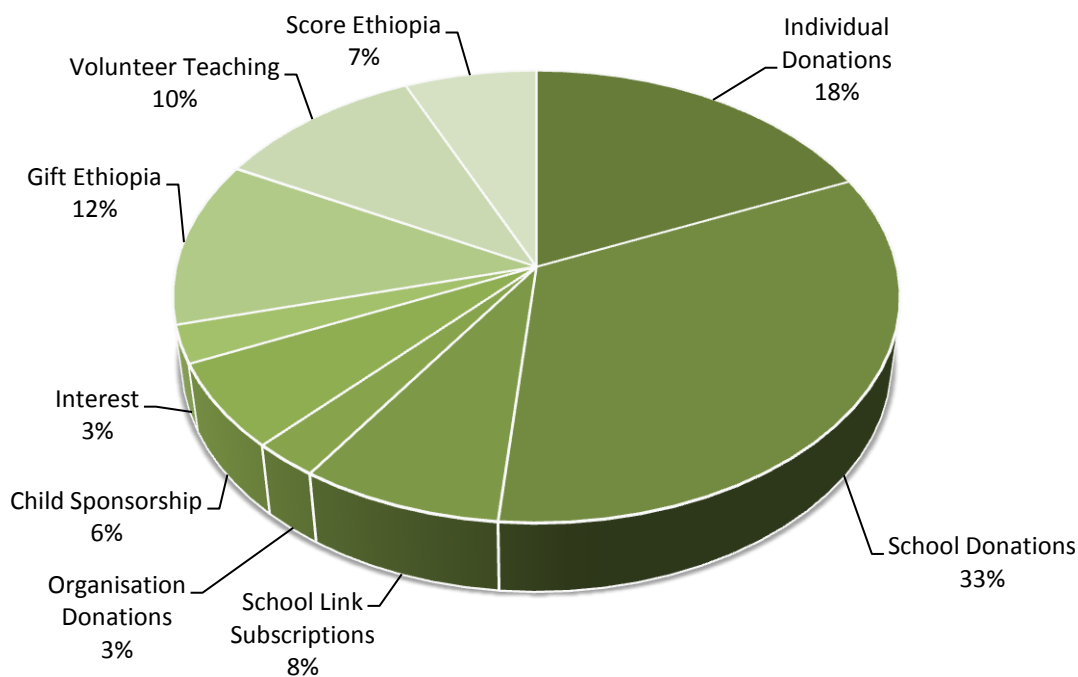
We employed our third full-time Ethiopian employee to set up and manage a new Link Ethiopia office in Bishoftu / Debre Zeit.

Financial Review

The charity's income during the 2008/09 financial year was £53,300 which was a decrease compared to the previous year. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the current economic conditions, particularly the 'credit crunch' which impacted heavily on Christmas spending this year and saw a marked decrease in Gift Ethiopia income. School donations remained healthy and individual donations saw an increase from the previous year.

Income this year was made up of £21,371 unrestricted and £31,929 restricted funds. Our expenditure during the year increased significantly to £58,912 as was predicted in last year's review. This was made up of £33,285 from unrestricted and £25,627 from restricted funds. As expected our funding of projects is now much more continuous throughout the year.

Breakdown of Income 2008-2009



Policy on Reserves

- As at 05/04/09 the Charity held funds of £39,089. Of this amount £24,569 was in restricted funds, giving unrestricted reserves of £14,520.
- The Charity aims to have between £10,000 and £15,000 on deposit in unrestricted funds at all times to meet any unforeseen expenses that may occur in meeting its aims and to bridge any temporary gaps in income.

Funds materially in deficit:

None

Governance and Staffing**Trustees**

Chris Grant – Chair of Trustees and Director

Ashley England – Treasurer

Jean Bailey

Rev. Christopher Clare

Melaku Getachew

Employees

Matt Stockdale – Project Director, London Office.

Belayneh Shewaye – Country Manager, Gondar Office.

Mulugeta Derso – Project Coordinator, Gondar Office, appointed 17th April 2008.

Firew Tilahun – Southern Coordinator, Bishoftu Office, appointed 10th November 2008.

Description of the Trust

Governing Document: Trust Deed made on 18th September 2005

How Charity is constituted: Trust

Trustee Selection: Appointed by the existing trustees

Other governance details

The charity is run on a day to day basis by the Director (volunteer), Project Director and a team of volunteers from our London Office and the Country Manager and two coordinators in our two Ethiopian offices.

There is a Child Protection Policy in place that was adopted by the trustees on 8th March 2007.

Trustee remuneration

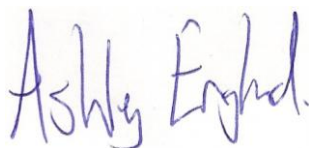
No Trustees received any remuneration during the period.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

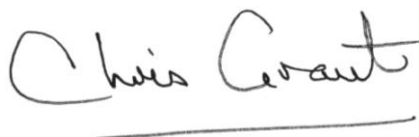


Full Name: Ashley England

Position: Treasurer

Date: 23/12/09

Signature:



Full Name: Chris Grant

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 23/12/09

Link Ethiopia
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 5th April 2009

	Total 2007-2008	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2008-2009
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Individual Donations	26,711	4,725	11,391	16,116
School Donations	12,789	2,517	15,128	17,645
Organisation Donations	6,086	163	1,226	1,389
School Linking Fees	450	4,250	-	4,250
Volunteer Teacher Fees	5,250	5,626	-	5,626
Child Sponsorship	140	-	3,282	3,282
Score Ethiopia	54	2,645	903	3,548
Tax refunds	6,430	-	-	-
Interest	1,243	1,445	-	1,445
Total Incoming Resources	59,155	21,371	31,929	53,300
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities				
School Projects	7,241	5,272	15,561	20,833
Community Projects	3,082	2,013	3,225	5,238
School Linking	5,072	4,009	-	4,009
Volunteer Teaching	5,236	6,102	-	6,102
Score Ethiopia	1,333	2,601	-	2,601
Cost of Generating Funds				
Cost of Generating Funds	5,207	5,407	-	5,407
Governance Costs				
Visits to Ethiopia	3,417	62	3,541	3,604
UK Admin Expenditure	5,180	3,929	3,299	7,228
Ethiopia Admin Expenditure	1,170	3,890	-	3,890
Total Resources Expended	36,940	33,285	25,627	58,912
Net Incoming Resources	22,215	(11,914)	6,303	(5,612)
Allocation of prior year's unrestricted spend against current year restricted income	-	5,917	(5,917)	-
Reanalysis of overspends on restricted funds to them as unrestricted expenditure		(2,037)	2,037	-
Balance Brought Forward	22,486	22,554	22,147	44,701
Balance Carried Forward	44,701	14,520	24,569	39,089

Link Ethiopia
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 5th April

	2008 £	2009 £
Current Assets		
Lloyds TSB Current Account	8,745	33,907
CAF Fixed Rate Selector Account	21,576	-
Lloyds TSB Cornwall Account	-	455
Lloyds TSB Score Account	5	106
Paypal Account	890	2,108
Dashen Gondar Account	13,485	2,513
Total Current Assets	44,701	39,089
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	22,554	14,520
Restricted Funds	22,147	24,569
Total	44,701	39,089
Other Monetary Assets		
Gift Aid Claim	1,672	5,370

Notes to accounts

Accounting Policy

This financial statement have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as permitted by charities legislation and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Stock and Other assets

The charity holds minor items of furniture, stationary and consumable stock. The Trustees do not consider their valuation to be material and aim to keep such items to a minimum.

Exchange Rates

Much of the charity's activity is conducted in Ethiopian Birr. Cash and bank account balances held in Birr at the year end are translated at the prevailing exchange rate, with the difference taken to Ethiopia Admin Expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities

Trustee Expenses

The Trustees are reimbursed for any expenses incurred for the charity.

Cost of Employees

The Salaries of UK and Ethiopian employees are accounted for under relevant project spending.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature:

Full Name:

Ashley England

Position:

Treasurer

Date:

23/12/2009

Signature:

Full Name:

Christopher Grant

Position:

Chair of Trustees

Date:

23/12/2009

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of Link Ethiopia
On accounts for year ended 5th April 2009
Set out on pages 13-14 of this report

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act),
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement:

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 11/1/2010

Name: R J Marshall

Relevant Professional Qualifications or Body: ACA FCIE

Address: 26 Kingsway, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 8NT



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