

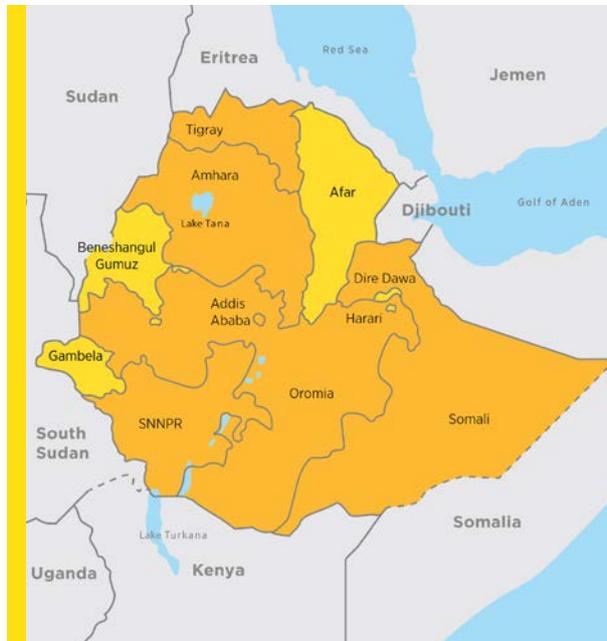
ETHIOPIA
COUNTRY STRATEGY
2016-2020





A young ophthalmologist during a mobile outreach in Kemba, SNNPR, surrounded by his patients.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD IN ETHIOPIA



Population

102,374,044 (July 2016 estimate)¹

Human development index (HDI)

0.442 (174 out of 188 countries)²

Life expectancy at birth (in years)

64.1³

Physicians per 10,000 inhabitants

0.3⁴

Ophthalmologists in the country

150⁵ (130 general, 20 subspecialist)

Blindness rate

1.6%⁶

Population below national poverty line

29.6% (2014 est.)⁷

Introduction

Since 1995, Ethiopia has been a federal Democratic Republic. It is a landlocked country located at the Horn of Africa, bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan. For more than a decade Ethiopia has had an annual growth rate of between 8% and 11% and is the fifth-fastest growing economy among the 188 IMF member countries. However, Ethiopia remains one of the largest recipients of donor aid in Africa, receiving almost USD 3 billion in 2015. Light for the World has been active in Ethiopia since 1990, setting up a Country Office in 2010 which has since grown to include more than 30 staff members, as well as being the base for three of Light for the World's international experts. At the time of print Light for the World is active in five regions – Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) – and one city administration, Addis Ababa (see map above).

¹ CIA; The World Factbook, Ethiopia; 01.12.16; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html>

² UNDP; Human Development Indicators, Ethiopia; 01.12.16; <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ETH>

³ UNDP; Human Development Indicators, Ethiopia; 01.12.16; <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ETH>

⁴ Human Development Report 2015

⁵ IAPB Africa Human Resources for Eye Health Strategic Plan 2014-2034

⁶ Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa; 2006; National Five-Year Strategic Plan for Eye Care Ethiopia (2006-2010)

⁷ CIA; The World Factbook, Ethiopia; 01.12.16; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html>

Disability in Ethiopia

The World Report on Disability jointly issued by the World Bank and World Health Organization in 2011 estimated that 17.6% of the Ethiopian population have a disability.⁸ The Ethiopian National Plan of Action of Persons with Disabilities (2012-2021) estimates that 95% of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia are living below the poverty line. Like the overall population, 84% are assumed to live in rural areas and therefore have limited access to basic services. Rehabilitation services in the country are also limited and concentrated in urban centres.⁹

Ethiopia has ratified and adopted almost all of the relevant initiatives and international legal texts on the rights of persons with disabilities including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2010. On a national level, its Growth and Transformation Plan, which is the leading document aiming for economic growth and development in Ethiopia and already in its second phase (GTP II 2015-2020), has various chapters and articles which refer directly or indirectly to persons with disabilities, referencing for example special needs education for children with disabilities, preventive, curative, emergency care and rehabilitative health services, and the aim to expand social security services and participation in political decision making.

Despite the efforts of the government and the initiatives of national and international non-governmental organisations, there is still a great need to work with persons with disabilities towards their full inclusion in all aspects of society and for the different stakeholders to collaborate more closely.

Light for the World’s Overall Strategy

Our vision

is an Inclusive Society for all where no one is left behind and all persons participate equally in the cultural, social, political and economic environment.

Our mission

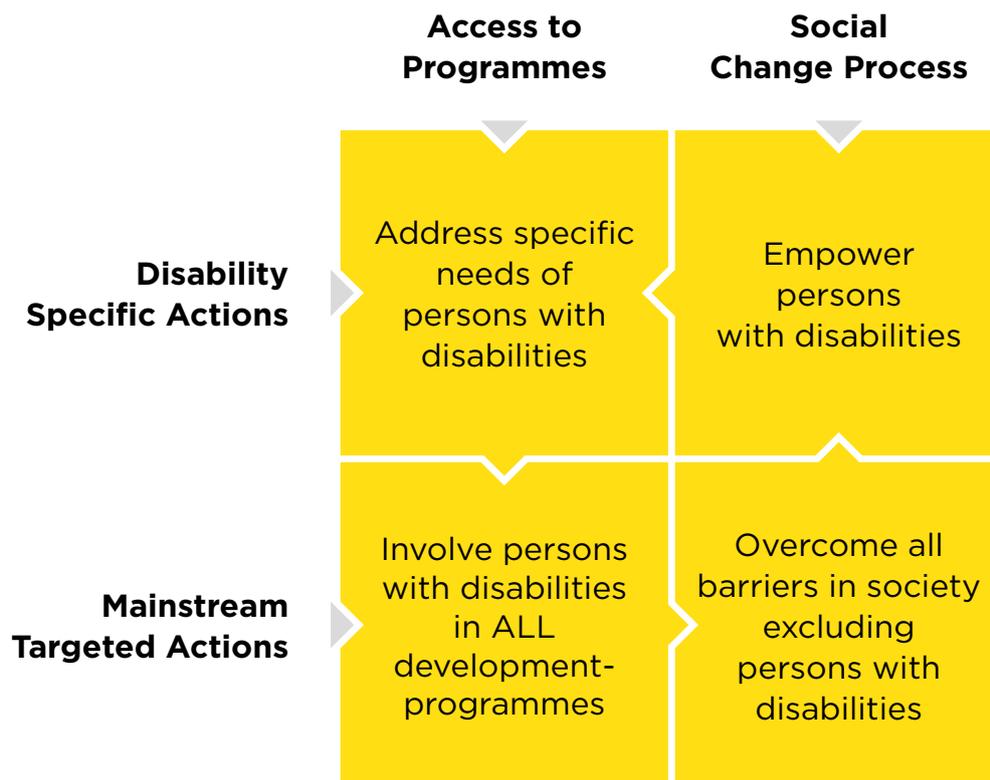
is to contribute to a world in which persons with disabilities fully exercise their rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guides us. Persons with disabilities living in poverty are amongst the most excluded groups in society. They are at the centre of our work and they drive the change.

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8 World Bank and World Health Organization, Washington D.C,2011

9 Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: National Plan of Action of Persons with Disabilities (2012-2021), p. 2

- We engage in empowering persons with disabilities to take development in their own hands.
- We strive to overcome all barriers in society and create access for persons with disabilities.
- We are committed to improving eye health and promoting inclusive education, Community Based Rehabilitation, disability rights, and livelihood and disability inclusion.
- We pay specific attention to women with disabilities, children with disabilities and more excluded impairment groups within the disability community.

To achieve our objectives, the programmatic approach is based on our Theory of Change:



At the level of the individual, Light for the World aims for accessible, sustainable and qualitative services that address the needs of persons with disabilities so they can fully exercise their rights.

At community level, we work towards greater participation and visibility of persons with disabilities in all areas of public life, in decision-making processes and in development programmes. Light for the World works with Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) (directly or indirectly) and the media for raising awareness and social mobilisation on the rights for persons with disabilities.

At national level, Light for the World's objective is a structural change through which national ministries take into account and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the development, monitoring and implementation of policies, programmes and services. Light for the World supports the development and implementation of national policies and programmes in its intervention areas and these strategic documents guide the implementation of our programme. The role of Light for the World is to be a convener, to bring together and encourage collaboration between relevant stakeholders to work towards an inclusive society.

At regional (Africa) and international level (EU, UN), Light for the World is working to establish a reciprocal relationship of influence between persons with disabilities in Ethiopia and the international institutional frameworks and actors.

Mekonen Bezabeh hugging his grandson after caratact surgery.



Our Strategy for the Promotion of an Inclusive Society in Ethiopia, 2016-2020

To contribute towards an inclusive society in Ethiopia, where persons with disabilities are fully included and empowered, in order to sustainably reduce inequality and poverty.

Light for the World will continue supporting existing partners' projects in five regions and one city administration, namely Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali, Tigray and Addis Ababa city administration. The two regional states Amhara and SNNPR, where all our programme areas are being implemented, will be our focus regions.

Region	(Eye) Health	Inclusive Education	CBR	Disability Inclusive Development
Amhara				
Addis Ababa				
Oromia				
SNNPR				
Somali				
Tigray				
National				

In Addis Ababa city administration, Oromia, Somali and Tigray Regions, we are implementing one or two programme areas and they are therefore seen as partner regions. It should be noted, that large Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programmes are implemented in Oromia and Tigray region and therefore a large proportion of the budget is used in these two regions.

At national level, we are engaged in networking, promoting system change dialogue, and smaller initiatives.

Health and Eye Health

In Ethiopia, the prevalence of blindness and low vision is 1.6% and 3.7% respectively, representing one of the highest prevalence rates in Sub-Saharan Africa and the world. There are only around 130 general ophthalmologists and 20 subspecialists practising in the country of which around 60% reside in Addis Ababa and only about 51% work in the public sector. Light for the World is among the major actors in the eye health sector in the country by supporting 2 tertiary eye units, 13 secondary eye units (SEU) and 28 primary eye units and is also supporting the elimination of blinding trachoma in Oromia and Tigray in partnership with their Regional Health Bureaus (RHB). Ethiopia has one of the highest prevalence rates of active trachoma worldwide with more than 73 million people being at risk of infection. It is estimated that 15.7 million people are at risk of infection of Onchocerciasis, and around 10 million people are at risk of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), the second leading cause of disability worldwide. Light for the World supports the elimination of Onchocerciasis and LF in western Oromia (both) and Tigray regions (LF only).

The Specific Objective in eye health and health in general is to contribute to quality, accessible, inclusive and sustainable comprehensive eye health services in Ethiopia. In addition, Light for the World will support the Federal Ministry of Health's national NTDs elimination strategy with a geographical focus on western Oromia and Tigray regions.

Result 1: Provision of comprehensive, inclusive and quality eye health services is ensured in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray regions

Main actions:

- support partners to increase the comprehensiveness of their services and to uphold quality standards through the routine use of biometry and the implementation of the international guidelines on glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy
- focus on a regional approach and consolidate the existing eye health programmes to secure sustainability
- foster and strengthen regional approaches to eye health in Tigray, Somali and a third region
- launch a pilot project with Arba Minch Hospital for sustainable uncorrected refractive errors service provision

Result 2: Human resources for eye health are quantitatively and qualitatively strengthened

Main actions:

- continue supporting the ophthalmology departments of Jimma, Gondar and Mekele Universities in ophthalmic personnel training, including for sub-specialties
- further explore possibilities of cooperation in human resource development with Soddo and Karamara SEUs
- foster exchange and research by linking these teaching institutions up with other universities and research institutions abroad

Result 3: Light for the World has significantly contributed to the **elimination of blinding trachoma** as a public health problem in Tigray and Oromia regions

Main actions:

- play a significant role in the implementation of full SAFE¹⁰ strategy in Tigray region and support mass drug administration (MDA) components of SAFE in western Oromia
- coordinate with other organisations, and support scaling up F&E components and behaviour change communication and information/education communication strategies in Tigray region
- promote integration of NTDs activities with comprehensive eye health, wherever applicable, to create synergy and also secure programme sustainability

Result 4: Quality, comprehensiveness and inclusiveness of Light for the World's contribution are improved. The **scope** of the intervention is also increased

Main actions:

- support the elimination of Onchocerciasis in partnership with Oromia RHB in 61 districts as well as LF in 10 districts of western Oromia and 1 district of Tigray region
- cover all hyper- and meso-endemic districts in MDA intervention both in Tigray and western Oromia regions by 2018
- continue supporting the current MDA activities toward elimination of Onchocerciasis and LF, while also including Soil-transmitted helminth (STH) and Schistosomiasis in co-endemic districts where co-administration is possible
- promote disability and gender mainstreaming in the NTDs programme

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10 The acronym SAFE stands for a WHO-developed strategy to eliminate trachoma as a blinding disease which combines 4 different interventions, namely Surgery for trichiasis (inturned eyelashes), Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvement. <http://www.who.int/blindness/causes/trachoma/en/>

Result 5: Improved recognition of eye health as a health priority by the Federal Ministry of Health and by Regional Health Bureaus

Main actions:

- play a significant role promoting national level system change dialogue and regional system change dialogue in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray to embed eye health care in the general health system, increase ownership, and raise Light for the World's profile
- remain engaged in national networks to foster the adoption and implementation of the national eye health plan 2015-2020.

Inclusive Education

Over the past decade the Federal Republic of Ethiopia has invested heavily in education and the net enrolment rate in schools rose from 68.5% in 2004/2005 to 85.7% in 2012/2013. However, only 4% of children with disabilities are currently attending school and the government has set the ambitious target of increasing this number to 75%. Inclusive education (IE) is a new focus area for Light for the World in Ethiopia. In addition to educational activities carried out by Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) partner organisations, we previously supported a small number of education projects scattered across the country. Throughout 2015 we developed an ambitious inclusive education programme that will inform our work over the next couple of years. We successfully forged working relationships with relevant government ministries and nurtured networks with other national and international stakeholders.

The Specific Objective in inclusive education is to contribute to the transformation of the education system so it provides quality education for all learners irrespective of their abilities. Focusing on persons with disabilities, we strive to contribute to the transformation of policies, practices and attitudes in the education system, to accommodate the differing needs of individual students and to remove the barriers hindering them from realising their full potential.

Result 1: The commitment to implement legal frameworks for inclusive education for persons with disabilities is evident in strategies, plans and practices at all levels of the education system, particularly in Amhara region, SNNPR and the Addis Ababa city administration



Hiwot Mengestu and CBR worker Emebet during a learning session at home.

Main actions:

- support the Federal Ministry of Education (FMOE), Regional Education Bureaus, the National Council advising the FMOE (comprised of NGOs, Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FENAPD) etc.), DPOs, Civil Society Organisations, and partner organisations to promote disability-inclusive education in line with Article 24 of the UNCRPD
- develop the expertise and increase the capacity of Regional, Zonal and Woreda/ City Administration level Education Bureaus and regional working groups to support the planning, implementation, and monitoring of inclusive education for children with disabilities

Result 2: Children with disabilities receive **quality services** and the support they need to develop to their full social, academic, physical and emotional potential

Main actions:

- improve access to and quality of Early Childhood Development and Early Childhood Care and Education services for children with disabilities
- enhance capacities of CBR partners to promote and facilitate inclusive education
- develop the skills and confidence of children with disabilities to advance their educational development and social inclusion

Result 3: Increased availability of **quality inclusive schools/resource centres** and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions that foster learning and social development of children and youth with disabilities

Main actions:

- support a minimum of 30 primary and 5 secondary schools to become inclusive disability-responsive quality learning and teaching schools
- promote inclusive and disability-responsive TVETs

Result 4: **Training institutions, educators, leaders and teachers are better equipped** and motivated to implement quality inclusive education for children with disabilities

Main actions:

- equip and enable universities and Colleges of Teacher Education to play a stronger leadership role in inclusive education
- support and enhance the official development and delivery of professional development courses for in-service and pre-service training of teachers, therapists and education officials

Result 5: **Conducive home and community environment** fostered, where inclusive education and disability inclusive development is embraced

Main actions:

- awareness raising among families, communities, local leaders and the general public of the right to education as outlined in the UNCRPD
- advocate towards mainstream NGOs working on education, children and health to include children with disabilities and their families in their programmes
- enhance awareness, knowledge and practice on child protection issues of children with disabilities, particularly girls

Result 6: Knowledge gained in the inclusive education programme is used to **promote further development of inclusive education** in the rest of the country

Main actions:

- improve research to further develop effective implementation of inclusive education
- foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement amongst implementers of inclusive education

Community Based Rehabilitation

In 2010 the Ethiopian parliament ratified the UNCRPD. However, to date the vast majority of persons with disabilities have not yet been reached by rehabilitation service providers and their access to basic services remains limited. There are ten government run rehabilitation centres providing prostheses, orthoses, assistive devices and physiotherapy. Despite the lack of service providers in many locations, some CBR aspects were taken up by decentralised government structures, such as Health Extension Workers and Community Care Coalitions.

Currently Light for the World is supporting six CBR projects (three in Oromia, two in SNNPR, and one in Amhara). Two of the six CBR projects are implemented through partnering with government line departments whereas the remaining four are being implemented through local NGOs. Moreover, Light for the World is also supporting the CBR Network Ethiopia which is a membership umbrella organisation for CBR project implementing partners.

The Specific Objective for CBR is to improve the life of persons with disabilities and their families, meeting basic needs and ensuring inclusion and participation.

Result 1: Implementation of CBR components through regional governments in Amhara and SNNPR (within their existing service delivery structures) is fostered and institutionalised

Main actions:

- strengthen CBR NGO partners and establish them as resource organisations for government institutions. Light for the World will support its partners to improve the quality of the CBR intervention through skill development of CBR staff and capacity development in cross-cutting areas (such as child protection and gender)
- gradually phase-over NGO-based CBR service delivery support to regional governments by strongly engaging in disability mainstreaming and inclusive development initiatives of regional governments
- build DPO capacities to effectively support government CBR initiatives and at the same time demand the services
- expand the reach of government-based CBR service delivery to wider catchment areas, thereby reaching significantly more persons with disabilities
- strengthen access of persons with disabilities to livelihood by making existing governmental and non-governmental livelihood programmes more accessible for and inclusive of persons with disabilities

Result 2: CBR and Disability Inclusive Development is established as the programmatic **backbone for the Inclusive Education programme** (see section on IE)

Main actions:

- enhance the capacities of CBR partners to enable them to support an increased number of children with disabilities to access education and also assist schools and teachers to include students with disabilities
- foster synergy between Light for the World's disability inclusive development and inclusive education programmes in SNNPR and Amhara regions so as to increase uptake and retention of disabled students in the regions

Result 3: Disability Inclusive Development through the current **mainstream CBR partners** in Oromia is fostered

Main actions:

- effectively mainstream disability within the operations of the current mainstream CBR partners, Harmee Education for Development Association and Gayo Pastoral Development Initiative
- strengthen the two partners to enable them to support mainstreaming disability within the various social and development programmes of the government in their respective projects areas

Disability Inclusive Development

In Ethiopia, persons with disabilities are often marginalised and excluded from development initiatives and services and are therefore more likely to be poor. In recent years, government policies and programmes have started to pay increasing attention to persons with disabilities.

DPOs are central to the promotion of rights of and eventual inclusion of persons with disabilities. While the roles DPOs play in Ethiopia are still quite limited, they have been contributing a lot to the promotion of rights of persons with disabilities at policy, community and individual level.

Light for the World has been focusing on fostering disability inclusive development as well as working with and strengthening DPOs in Ethiopia. The aim has been to empower DPOs to work with the government, which to date has been particularly successful at grassroots level. Furthermore, Light for the World has recently started two regional disability inclusive development programmes.

The Specific Objective for disability inclusive development is to contribute to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their equal participation in social life and development programmes.

Result 1: DPOs at national level and at regional level in Amhara and SNNPR are capacitated to engage with development actors and government bodies to foster disability inclusive development

Main actions:

- build the capacity of DPOs to enable them to act as equal dialogue partners towards government at local, regional and national levels, and to play active roles in CBR and IE projects, as well as inclusive development programmes
- support the UNCRPD monitoring carried out by the Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FENAPD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA)
- support DPOs in stakeholder’s dialogue and promote them as disability advisors for government bodies and non-governmental development organisations

Tarikwa Gebreegziabher lost one leg when a car hit her on her way home from school. Through the CBR Project in Arba Minch she receives comprehensive rehabilitation services as well as legal support against the driver.



Result 2: The **regional governments and development stakeholders** in Amhara and SNNPR are capacitated to plan and **implement disability inclusive policies, strategies and programmes**

Main actions:

- continue to strengthen the regional disability inclusive development programmes in Amhara and SNNPR, to foster the implementation of government guidelines and policies for disability mainstreaming
- the two regional disability inclusive development programmes will also link up with other development actors in the region and will serve as the backbone for Light for the World's eye health, IE, and CBR projects in Amhara and SNNPR

Result 3: Mainstream development actors (INGOs, bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners) are encouraged and capacitated to **include persons with disabilities** in their programmes

Main actions:

- increase networking and cooperation with others and contribute Light for the World's disability mainstreaming expertise in joint programme implementation in order to encourage inclusion of persons with disabilities in all development programmes
- practise disability mainstreaming in the NTD programme to serve as an example for inclusion in a major health intervention
- network with organisations active in humanitarian aid to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency relief programmes

Making the Ethiopia Strategy a Reality

Implementation Principles & Structure

Light for the World supports initiatives of local partner organisations (NGOs and government partners) to safeguard local ownership and cultural as well as structural sustainability. Light for the World is represented in Ethiopia through a Country Office which is the first point of contact for partners and other stakeholders.

The Country Office acts as a link between the operational partners and Light for the World, providing support and advice, strengthening capacities of the partners and getting engaged in networking and dialogue. Recently the Country Office has also taken on a partial implementation role in the NTD and IE programmes, where Light for the World staff are also seconded to partners.

Women with disabilities at a DPO meeting.



Partners¹¹

- Addis Development Vision (ADV)
- Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte
- Amhara Region Education Bureau
- Amhara National Regional State Health Bureau
- Basic Education Network Ethiopia
- Berhan Lehetsanat
- CBR Network Ethiopia
- Cheshire Services Ethiopia
- College of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Gondar
- East Wollega Zone Health Department
- Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development
- Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus -
Development and Social Services Commission
- Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities
(FENAPD)
- Gayo Pastoral Development Initiative (GPDI)
- Garbet Tehadso Mahber (GTM)
- Harmee Education for Development Association (HEfDA)
- Help for Persons with Disabilities Organisations (HPDO)
- Horo Guduru Wollega Zone Health Department
- Jimma University
- Kellem Wellega Zone Health Department
- Oromia Regional Health Bureau
- SNNPR Agency for Labour and Social Affairs
- SNNPR Regional Health Bureau
- SNNPR Regional Education Bureau
- Somali Regional State Health Bureau
- Tigray Regional Health Bureau
- Vision Community Based Rehabilitation (VCBRA)
- West Shewa Zone Health Department
- West Wollega Zone Health Department
- Wolaita Soddo University College of Health Science and Medicine
- Yesus Menna Education Support for the Deaf
- Yetehadeso Agelgelot Mesmat Letesanachew Mahiber (RSDA)
- Yirgalem Hospital

Our work is aligned to government policies and strives to work in close cooperation with public actors, technical experts, and international partners.

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11 At the time of print

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Abbreviations

CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
DPO	Disabled People’s Organisation
FENAPD	Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities
FMOE	Federal Ministry of Education
IE	Inclusive Education
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
SAFE	Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial Cleanliness, Environmental Improvement
SEU	Secondary Eye Unit
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Region
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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