

GOBELE SHARYN PRIMARY SCHOOL 2014 YEAR END REPORT

 imagine1day®

DISCOVER YOUR IMPACT



**Click above to watch this video of
your new school's inauguration.**

Thanks to the legacy left behind
by Sharyn Mandel and her
family and friends, hundreds of
girls and boys are now looking
forward to a brighter future.

On behalf of everyone at
imagine1day and the
community members of Gobele,
thank you for your generous
support and ongoing
commitment.



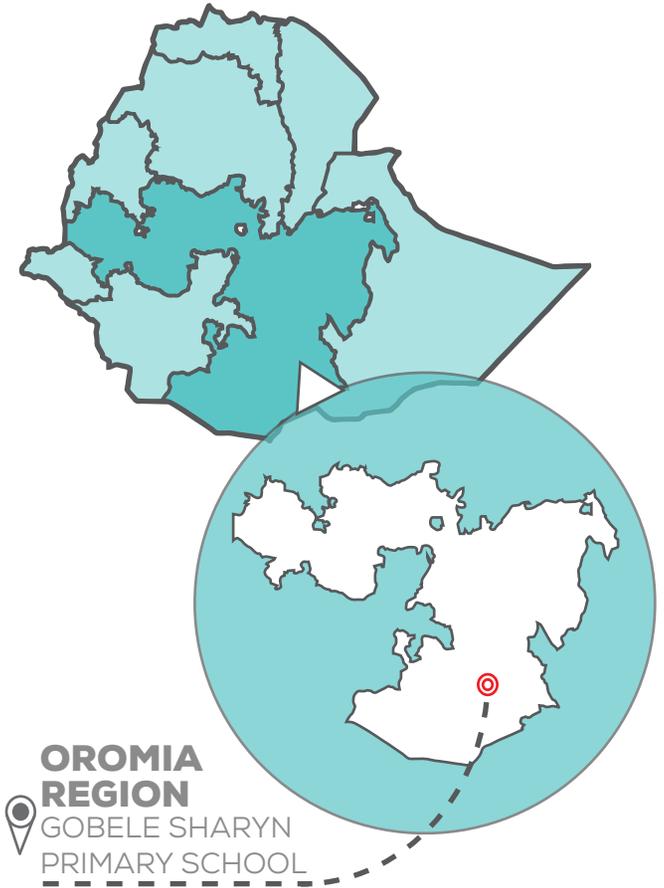
the imagine1day team





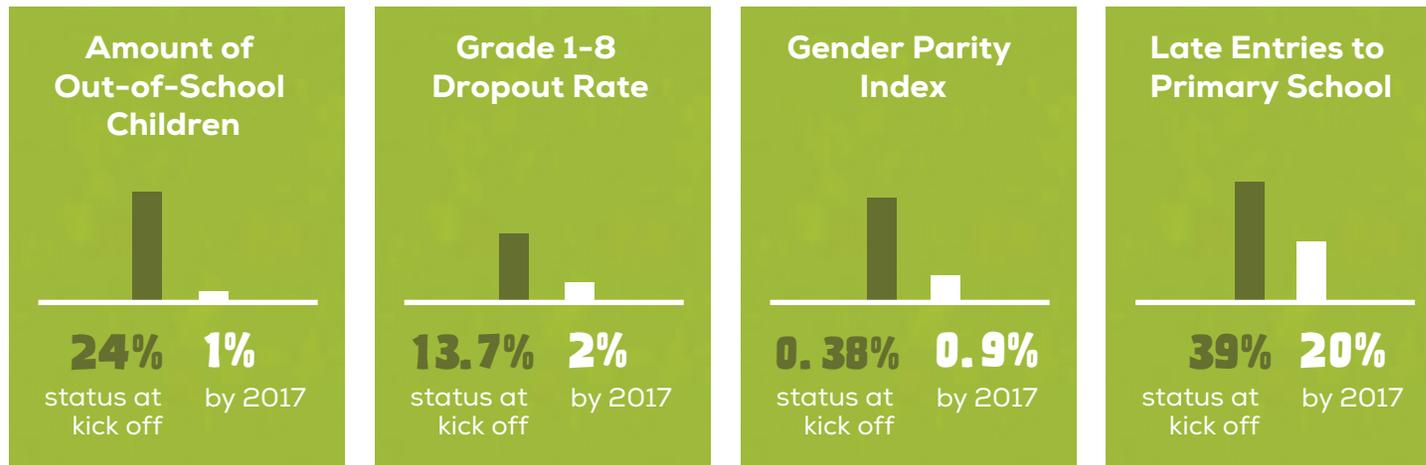
PROJECT OVERVIEW

One year ago, students in Gobele were crammed into classrooms made of mud, wood and straw. Rather than spending their days sitting on uncomfortable wood logs in the dust, many students did not come to class. This year, with the opening of the Gobele Sharyn Primary School, the state of education in this mighty community is on the rise. Kids are comfortable; everyone has a desk to sit at, and teachers are trying out new teaching methods they learned during their teacher training last year. Most importantly, thanks to extensive community awareness training provided by imagine1day, all boys and girls are now encouraged to go to school. Thanks to your support, we are on track to fulfill Sharyn's final wish to improve literacy and to help girls who otherwise lack the opportunity, gain access to a quality education.



OUR GOALS

What we will achieve by 2017:



OUR HOLISTIC APPROACH

Thanks to you, we built brand new classrooms for the students of Gobele. But new classrooms alone don't provide a quality education; you need motivated teachers with a variety of tools at their disposal, a dedicated Principal with strong leadership skills, and a community that values education. Our holistic approach focuses on three core areas and helps us address all these variables so that the boys and girls of Gobele Sharyn Primary School get the education they deserve. This is how we put our strategy into practice in 2014:



CONSTRUCTION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Four new classrooms
- One new gender segregated eight-stall latrine
- One Early Childhood Education classroom



COMMUNITY AWARENESS & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- Three capacity building, awareness and training programs for 14 community members including religious leaders, community association members and Iddir* leaders
- Seven PTA members trained in leadership and school management

**An Iddir is an important social welfare organization present in most Ethiopian communities.*



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES

- Training for teachers and the School Principal
- Provision of books, desks, sports materials, science kits, school club materials, creative writing supplies and more

YOUR BRAND NEW SCHOOL

This year, attending Gobele Sharyn Primary School is different. Five brand new classrooms, including one dedicated to Early Childhood Education, allow children to learn in a bright, airy environment where everyone has a seat. A new private latrine means that girls aren't afraid to go to school when they reach puberty, and a colourful new playground attracts children throughout the community.

Since your new classrooms welcomed students this fall, enrollment has snowballed. Last year, there were just 258 students enrolled in school. This year, there are 404 students, a 57% increase in enrollment.

For kids like eight-year-old Zeyni Abdurezack, a new classroom was the incentive needed to start Grade 1. "When I compare the previous school with this school it is very old. This one has seats. This one has a playground. It is more comfortable than the old classes. Before this school was constructed students sat in the dust. It was better to sit in my home rather than come to school. This year I came to school because we have a beautiful construction and to be in this beautiful playground," she says.

Having met Sharyn's two sons, her brother and their friends in October, Gobele's community members are even more dedicated and inspired to ensure that their school does justice to Sharyn's legacy. "I have never seen this type of construction before in my life," says Makida Adam, Gobele's Women's Affairs leader. "I have seen unbelievable change in Gobele, I feel happy and I appreciate them," she says.



**Zeyni Abdurezack is enjoying her first
year of school thanks to you.**

SADIYA'S MESSAGE

After spending last year catching up on her reading and writing during Functional Adult Literacy classes, 19-year-old Sadiya Hassan joined Grade 2 this year. She is one of the many women in Gobele who started her education thanks to Sharyn's support of this village.

"I was very happy to meet the Mandel family," she says. "I am happy because they stopped their work from that far area and they came to see us living here in the forest. They even built us this construction even though they have no relatives here. They think we are very important, so we are very happy," she says.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

In the community of Gobele, new classrooms alone won't improve access to education; community awareness also needs to be addressed. Last year there were more than three boys in school for every girl.

In 2014, to tackle this problem head on, imagine1day invited 812 influential community leaders throughout the district of Meda Welabu—including 14 from Gobele—to attend training sessions to talk about the connection between education and development. There were four, three-day training sessions in total: one for religious and clan leaders; one for Iddir leaders; another for Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members; and one targeting community association members, which include women's affairs leaders and health extension workers. Each training session ended with time for group discussions so participants could brainstorm ways to influence positive change in their communities.

Since the community trainings, change is afoot. The local Iddir, a social welfare organization to which every family is a member, started charging parents a 50 ETB penalty for each child that is not enrolled in school. Last spring, health extension workers helped us do a complete survey of all out-of-school children by visiting each home in the community. Armed with this information, PTA members spent the summer walking door-to-door to enroll parents to send all their girls and boys to school.

"The PTA has been working on strengthening the school-community relationship. We have been mobilizing the community to attend Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) classes. If they attend FAL, it is easy to get them to bring their children to school. After the training we have scheduled meetings, and day-to-day we visit the school. This is the impact of the training," says Hussein Adam, a PTA member.

Principal Shiferaw admits not everything is perfect: there are still out-of-school children to be recruited; the new classrooms cannot accommodate all the new students; and the school is still waiting for new teachers to be hired by the district of Meda Welabu. However, he is confident that the perception of formal education is evolving in his community. "There were different trainings given to different leaders, elders, religious leaders and women, so there is awareness throughout the society," he says.



School Principal Shiferaw Seyoul



Women's Affairs Leader Makida Adam



PTA Member Hussein Adam

ZEYTUNA'S STORY

It took her 30 years, but Zeytuna is finally ready to learn to read and write. Last year, at the urging of PTA members who participated in imagine1day's training, the mother of seven started taking Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) classes. It only served to whet her appetite. This year, she decided to enroll in Grade 1.

"I wanted to get more knowledge than in a regular FAL class. In FAL we only have one day a week, but here I can attend classes regularly so it is easier," she says. "Because my family had no education, I didn't want to repeat that history in myself. Education changed my mind. I send my children to school, I try to fulfill the materials they need and I keep their sanitation."

Now, Zeytuna can identify different letters in the alphabet and she can write up to ten. Although her husband has no problem with Zeytuna going to school with their children, it's still no easy task.

"Some members in the community ask me, 'Why do you go to school? You stay with your children? This is shameful.' But I pay no attention to them since I have my own goals and permission from my husband. I want to be a businesswoman. Since I live in front of the main road, I can create my own shop. When I am educated, it will be ok for me," she says.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

To become well-rounded citizens, students need more than just rote learning; they need classroom debates, creative projects, sports teams, and school clubs. In 2014, we made sure Gobele Sharyn Primary School was equipped with all the materials students need to learn, play and experiment. A science kit helps students put theory into practice; creative writing materials allow kids to express themselves freely; and sports supplies encourage students to play outside.

Meanwhile we began to pave a path for Gobele's educators to give students the best quality education. A total of six teachers from Gobele received training in Active Learning, Life Skills, Science, Reading and Writing Improvement, Action Research and Early Childhood Education. In Active Learning, teachers learn how to integrate more interactive learning techniques in their lessons; in Life Skills, teachers learn how to improve student confidence and participation in class; and in Science, teachers learn how to create hands-on experiments with their new science kits.

During School Leadership & Management Training, School Principal Shiferaw Seyoul says he learned more than he had in college. "After the school leadership training, I learned how to communicate with different PTA members. I learned how to encourage students and teachers. I learned how to set goals and objectives for the school, and also how to develop evaluation methods for my students and teachers. I also learned how to manage school finance and how to generate income for the school. Before we would simply collect money from the community and spend it on anything in any order. Now we sit with the PTA and they approve any spending and then we give the money to the accountants," he says. "I got so many things from the trainings. Before I didn't know how school leaders manage schools. Now I know what administration means," he says.



80

NEW DESKS



228

BOOKS FOR READING



4

**CHALKBOARDS
FOR CHILD-TO-CHILD
NETWORKING**



1

**SCIENCE KITS
WITH CHEMICALS**



1

**SET OF SPORTS
MATERIALS**

HAMID'S STORY

Hamid Mohammed is Gobele's Grade 3 teacher. Last year, he participated in Reading and Writing Improvement training to elevate his students' reading and writing skills. We asked him what he learned, and how his teaching methods have changed:

"From the training, I learned how to teach my students to construct words from the alphabet. I now teach them how to pronounce the vowels and consonants and how to create sentences.

Before this training, even I made spelling mistakes when I wrote. Now I give a lot of attention to the spelling of words, and I am always prepared before I get to class. I also use different teaching aid materials like flash cards rather than just talking to them.

In the class when I teach, I organize different competitions: sometimes I track the time while students read, or I encourage them to write different words on the black board. I also give special attention to those with difficulties. I provide special tutorial classes to certain students after class."



2014 ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

289

**FORMER OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN
ARE NOW ENROLLED IN SCHOOL.**

Current records from the local government and community indicate that we still have 101 more out-of-school children in Gobele to recruit.

0.41

**IS THE CURRENT GENDER PARITY
INDEX (GPI) IN GOBELE SHARYN
PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

We still have some work to do before we achieve our goal of reaching 0.9 GPI by December 2017.

2.71%

WAS THE DROPOUT RATE IN JUNE 2014.

By 2017, our objective is to maintain a maximum 2% dropout rate.

82.7%

**OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WERE
ENROLLED IN SCHOOL THIS DECEMBER.**

We aim to increase this number to 90% by 2017.

LOOKING AHEAD AT 2015 & 2016

Our work in Gobele isn't done. We will be supporting this community for the next two years to ensure that this village is capable of providing the best quality education for their children long after we're gone. Here is a look at what we have planned for 2015 and 2016.



EXPERIENCE SHARING

In 2015 and 2016, three people from Gobele will be invited to join the leaders of 103 communities throughout the districts of Dello Mena and Meda Welabu. Together they will visit a model school and will have the opportunity to learn best practices.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to train teachers and the Principal of Gobele Sharyn Primary School once a year for the next two years. This will allow us to follow up with teachers and the school principal to see how they are applying their new skills, and it will give them an opportunity to learn from other teachers and school administrators in their district.



COMMUNITY TRAINING

In 2015, religious leaders, Iddir leaders, community association members, and PTA members from Gobele will be invited to participate in refresher training courses with other community leaders from villages throughout the district of Meda Welabu. This will give them an opportunity to discuss which new initiatives they have put into practice since their first training session in 2014, and to learn from other communities' experiences.



INCOME GENERATION

In 2015, PTA members will receive seed money and training in income generating activities so that they can create a sustainable source of income to maintain their school.



MORE CLASSROOMS

With more and more students joining Gobele each day, the five newly constructed classrooms will soon be at capacity. In 2016, we hope to add additional classrooms to accommodate the growing student population. [Click here to learn more and join our efforts.](#)



 **Imagine 1 Day International Organization is a Canadian Registered Charity (83589 5475 RR0001)**

USA Friends of imagine1day, Inc. is a US 501(c)(3)(Tax ID 46-0983910)

Handwritten text on a heart-shaped card in a local language, including words like "da", "ke", "yo", "Aaka", "yo", "bar", "ste", "s", "it", "lu", "be", "bin", "be", "bin", "Ho", "sa", "lu", "ka", "mal", "bi", "ro", "ka", "mal", "bi", "ro", "ka", "mal", "bi", "ro".

