

Grow East Africa - Burji District - 2020 Impact Report



Grow East Africa Mission:

To improve the quality of lives of rural African families and children through education by focusing on sustainable access to education, clean water, health service, rural agriculture and development



Executive Summary

Grow East Africa (GEA) is a USA based charity organization currently working in the rural Burji District of SNNPR Ethiopia. GEA's mission is to improve the quality of lives of the people of the Burji District of SNNPR Ethiopia by helping support access: to quality education in rural schools, clean drinking water for villagers, health services, rural agriculture, and development. We work in partnership with the local government, village elders, and other NGOs to improve our clients' livelihoods. We started our mission by implementing proven sustainable processes to impact poverty.

Over the last four years, GEA distributed 3-goats per family for 100 low-income families impacting the lives of over 600 people in the Bila Village. Most of these families' goats have multiplied to the extent some of the families have sold a few goats and purchased cows that have also given birth to calves.

In partnership with Seeding Programs International, GEA organized, registered, and trained fifty refugee ladies who were heads of their household (the Birhan Ladies Cooperative) to farm nutritional vegetables, quinoa and Teff for self-sufficiency. The ladies were trained in the utilization of modern drip irrigation to farm vegetables year-round and develop markets for their products. The ladies were also trained in developing individual entrepreneurial skills for livelihood improvement. This farm project has impacted the lives of over 300 people and exposed the community to a higher nutritional source for food. GEA is working with other interested local groups to duplicate the vegetable and quinoa growing initiatives to their villages.

In 2019, GEA and Water Charity partnered to deliver borehole water up a steep hill to the HareWenji village center. This project enabled school-age girls to spend their time doing school work, and the house hold wives to spend their time on productive chores, instead of two to three hours typically spent fetching water from the distant well. As a result of this project old and sick people now have access to clean water. This is a major improvement impacting over 4000 people.

Burji District with a population of 155,000 has only two high schools. At present, high school seniors graduate without having exposure to modern teaching materials such as computers. In 2019, GEA built a computer lab for the HareWenji high school. This lab is equipped with 25 desktop computers, chairs, and tables. Teachers were trained in IT applications. In addition, GEA installed a WiFi and an additional 25-desktop computers at the Soyama Youth Center for after school learning.

Goat Project

Since July 2016, GEA distributed goats to 100 in need families in Bila Village, improving livelihoods for over 600 people. Today, most of these families have multiple goats, and some have sold a couple of their goats and purchased cows.

Goats are sturdy and multiply fast, increasing the wealth of family, and provide nutrition for children. Some of our clients who have more than six goats sold a couple of their goats and purchased young cows. Compared to a she-goat, a cow gives more milk, and farmers plow the field using oxen. Both cow and oxen are in high demand and are a symbol of survival and growth.

GEA is also supporting Mrs. Ayelech Anno, 2016 goat-recipient to develop and scale-up her special goat feed. At present, GEA purchases her feed and distributes to other goat recipients. In addition, GEA is training a few of the recipients to form a small group that will raise goats for the market as an alternative means of self-sufficiency.

In 2021 GEA will expand goat distribution to other villages.



Top photo: Mrs. Ayelech receives 3-goat on July 2016; Middle photo: March 2017 – Mrs. Ayelech with her five goats; Bottom photo: March 2020, Mrs. Ayelech with 10 goats and 4-cows

Vegetables, Quinoa and Teff Farm

This project sponsors fifty households' females consisting of refugee and local poor families to become self-sufficient. In 2016 when GEA met these ladies, they had nothing to survive on. In the following year, GEA partnered with Seeding Programs International and organized the ladies into a registered cooperative that produces nutritious vegetables, quinoa, and teff for food and to sell the excess in the local market.

GEA /SPI also partnered with the Burji District Management and Cooperative Office to train the ladies. The goal is to help the Birhan ladies develop a sustainable farming, market development, and bookkeeping skills for their produce. We also train the Ladies in sanitation, and hygiene.

During a long period between planting to harvest time, our ladies have no source of income to feed their families. To address this dire need, GEA initiated an alternative money-generating opportunity such as cereal trading was started.

GEA has plans to partner with international NGOs, such as the Convoy of Hope to train the ladies in market development and entrepreneur opportunities.

Top photo: Tomato plant on one-hectare land

Middle: Quinoa plants harvest

Bottom: Local market cereal trade



Access to Clean Water

In Burji District, less than 10% of homes have access to clean water. Children and pregnant women suffer from waterborne diseases. Typically, school-age girls and women spend 2 to 3 hours daily fetching drinking water. School-age girls often are late to get to school and do not have time to do their schoolwork at home.



In 2019, GEA and Water Charity partnered to install a solar energy powered submersible pump to deliver borehole water from over a kilometer distance up a steep hill to the center of HareWanji village. As a result, school-age girls and women spend only a few minutes to fetch water, leaving them more time for productive chores. GEA has plans to partner with other NGOs and expand access to clean water to other villages.



Top photo: Village girls and ladies fetch drinking water from open source; Middle Photo: Installation of submersible Solar pump system to deliver borehole water to center of village; Bottom photo: Ladies and girls fetching clean water delivered via submersible solar pumped uphill to the village center with minimum waiting period.



Improving access to education

Burji District has only two high schools. None of the schools have essential learning materials facilities such as computers, libraries, and science laboratories.



The student from Burji District that enters university spends their first-year learning how

to use computers. None of the schools have a library nor a science laboratory. To correct this educational deficiency, GEA built a computer lab for the HareWenji grades 11 and 12. We installed 25 desktops, chairs, and tables. Total of five hundred students from the morning and afternoon class sessions have access to the computer lab. We plan to extend computer usage into the other high school and middle schools. We are also planning to build and furnish science labs and libraries.

As the saying goes, the mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Above photo – students using newly installed computer lab. Lower photo – IT instructor helping students in the computer lab



Combating COVID19 Spread in Rural Burji District

GEA is a partnership with the Burji Development Agency (BDA) trained 52 ladies representing 26 villages how to sew reusable face masks for protection against COVID19 spread

The 52 ladies were divided into five smaller teams to perfect their sewing skills.

The newly trained ladies returned to their villages and trained their community on how to sew reusable face masks using hand stitching. This project has potential to reduce negative impact of COVID19 exposure on the lives of tenth of thousand residents.

GEA and BDA are grateful for the volunteers, trainers, and the donors for their support with necessary funds for the initiative.



Above photo, Trainers cutting mask materials,
Lower photo, Trainer helping villagers hand stitch the masks

Moving Forward

1. Burji District - Grow East Africa (GEA) VEGETABLE / QUINOA FARM

We want to increase the Birhan Ladies farming skills:

- Expanding Vegetables and Quinoa farming to other communities
- Train other local farmers to grow Quinoa
- Increase farm size with contracts and leasing processes
- Train Birhan Ladies in farm resource management

2021 will bring a new expansion of our current pilot program by the purchase of a tractor. This tractor will allow us to greatly increase our impact not only on our focus of quinoa but the entire farming community that must wait sometimes for months to schedule the other two tractors. With this modern approach to farming, we know that our impact will be able to expand to neighboring villages.

2. GOAT Project

GEA will expand the goat project to Gotche village. We will also continue to support Bila Goat project growth by scaling up Mrs. Ayelech Anno goat- feed recipe that will be distributed to each goat recipients. GEA will also infuse seed-funds for goat fattening and marketing initiative as an expansion to self-sufficiency.

3. WATER Project

GEA will collaborate with Burji District water department and international NGOs to bring clean water to three villages that have no drinking water.

4. TEACHING MATERIALS

GEA will collaborate with the Burji District education departments and international NGOs to introduce quality education materials such as computers and computer labs, science books, laboratories and libraries.

GEA Five Year Plans	
Description	Cost (\$)
Register Grow East Africa as an international NGO in Ethiopia	
- Partner with Burji District and complete the necessary filing process	2,500
Goat Project	
- Continue to support Bila Goat project: recipients training, monitoring animal health, developing individual entrepreneurship skills: goat feed, and initiate goat fattening activities	7,000
- Duplicate Bila Goat project to two different villages total of 200 more families	30,000
Vegetable, Quinoa, and Teff farm	
- Expand HareWenji farm from one to two hectares: drip irrigation system, 10000-L tank; 5-meter high water storage structure, increase client size from 50 to 100 women	10,000
- Acquire additional leasable land to expand quinoa farming	3,000
- Start-up vegetable / quinoa farm to Gotche/Bila villages	15,000
- Raise fund and purchase medium size tractor and trailer	20,000
- Partner with <u>CONVOY of HOPE</u> to train and support selected members of Birhan ladies in small business partnerships	10,000
- Expand Birhan lady's vegetable/quinoa market share in local and surrounding markets	5000
- Expand Birhan lady's alternative income generation activities	5,000
Impacting Education	
- Partner with the education department to upgrade access to quality learning: install computer labs, science laboratory, and libraries at high school to elementary level in six more location	20,000
- Provide a scholarship to sponsor poor students from distant villages to attend high school in town	10,000
- Install WiFi for students to access the internet in computer labs and libraries	5,000
Access to Clean Water	
- Partner with international NGO to access clean water source for three villages - using submersible solar pump systems @ \$15,000 per system	45,000
Introducing Basic Health Care	
- Introduce first aid kits to high school students with an emphasis on girls' health issues	4,000
- Distribute first aid kits and basic medicine in twenty-six villages	26,000

Conclusion

Without your support we would never have been able to encourage the amazing people of this region to take a giant step toward self-improvement. When they say it take a village ----we believe it has proven to have a profound result in a really short time. The smiles at harvest tell the story of change and gives hope to people who have survived in extreme conditions. Our goal will remain to partner with anyone that would like to join Grow East Africa with our approach to sustainable life!

GEA is grateful for our partners, including SPI, WaterCharity, Convoy of Hope, ProCOAT, Burji District Management, and Cooperative office, village elders, recipients, as well as, our volunteers and financial donors.

Together we are building the bridge that will transport our clients to the future. Please join us on the [Web](#) & [Social Media](#), Like US and [DONATE](#) your time and funds.

In Memory of my dear wife and friend, Dr. Patricia A. Andreozzi, cofounder and strong Supporter of GEA



Layne Rushforth

Salim Khalfan Frank & Ann Ortiz Barbara Finklestein

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CONTACT US: GrowEastAfrica@gmail.com

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CALL Dr. Yohannes Chonde; Cell: 989-430-9652

email: ychonde@gmail.com