

GRADUATE FUND

— 2014 —

YEAR END REPORT



 imagine1day[®]

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A quality education shouldn't end with Grade 8, but in rural Ethiopia going to high school often isn't an option. For many students living in remote communities, the closest high school is too far from their parents' home to commute on a daily basis. Many families can't afford to pay for their child's transportation, living expenses, rent, household furnishings and school supplies on their own, which means many of Ethiopia's most promising and determined students don't get the opportunity to pursue secondary education. In response to this issue, imagine1day launched the Graduate Fund in 2011. Thanks to the generous investments of donors like you, we've helped 168 high performing students from disadvantaged households in rural Ethiopia attend high school over the past four years.

CLASS OF 2015

21

CLASS OF 2017

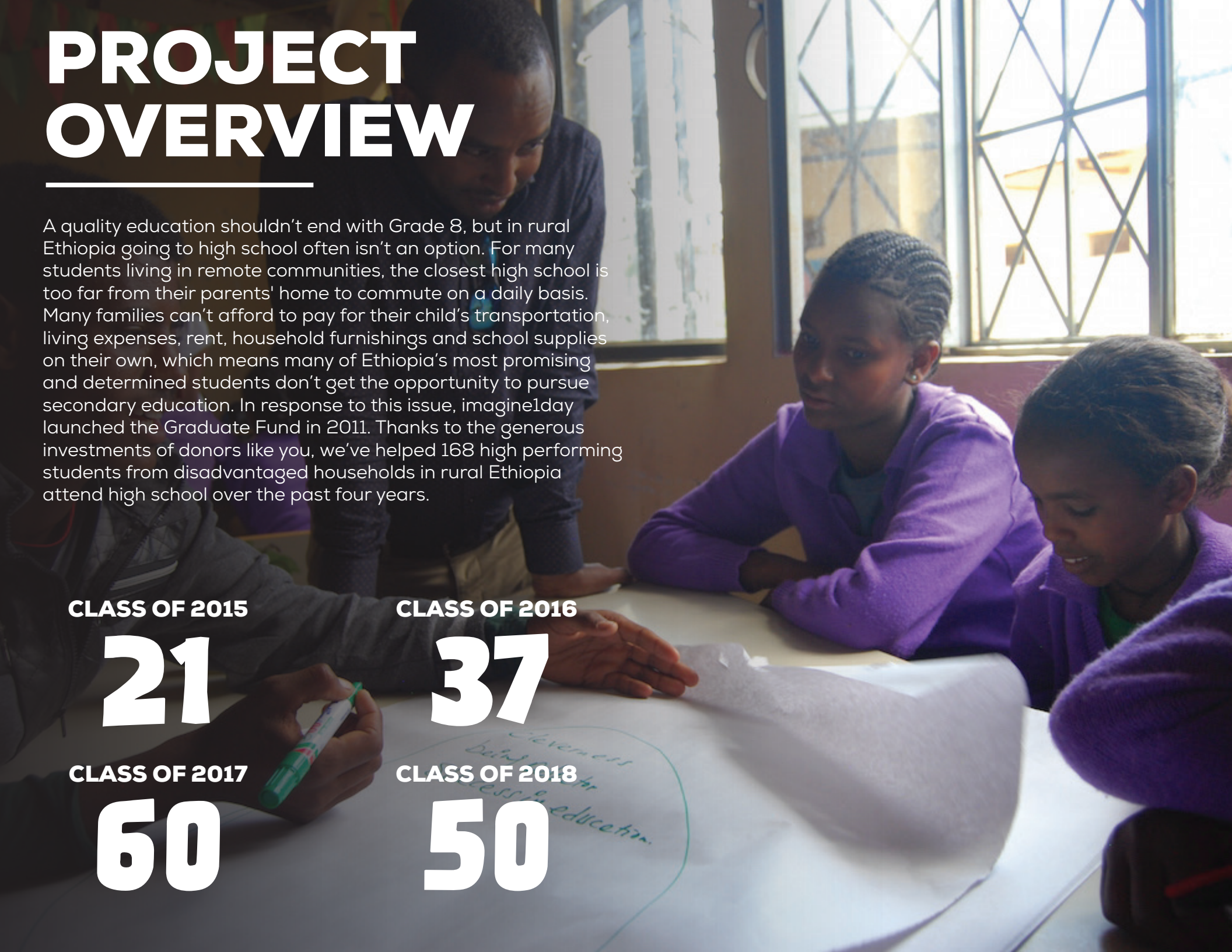
60

CLASS OF 2016

37

CLASS OF 2018

50



WHAT MAKES OUR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS UNIQUE?

Unlike traditional scholarships, imagine1day's Graduate Fund is about independence for students and their families. With a portion of our your investment, we purchase all the materials a high school student needs to settle into their new home in town. They get a new mattress, bedding, household and school supplies and enough funds to cover rent for their Grade 9 year. The remainder of this investment is used to provide Life Skills Training for students, as well as seed funding and Business Skills Training for families. During Life Skills Training, students learn to communicate openly and productively with their new housemates, and they begin to consider goals and plans for their future. After a student completes his or her first year of high school (Grade 9), the seed money and Business Skills Training their family received will allow them to fund the rest of their child's education (Grade 10 to 12) on their own.

Take Yared Gebrehiwot and his mother Mebrat Teka for example. Last year, Yared achieved a great milestone: he passed his Grade 10 National Exam. The outcome of these exams determines if a student will go on to preparatory school and then to university or if they will switch to technical school or in some cases, drop out of school entirely. Yared passed his exam with flying colours and now he's working hard to maintain his average in Grade 11.

Meanwhile, his mother is also gaining new skills. Just three years ago, with training and 3,500 ETB in seed funding from imagine1day, she purchased sheep. Since then, she's been fattening and selling her sheep at a profit. Thanks to her hard work and keen business sense, Mebrat now has seven sheep, one cow and one calf, giving her a net worth of 13,500 ETB. "I learned a lot. Before I had no business experience, but after taking the training, I acquired good skills in operating a business and I'm profitable by working with the initial capital I received from imagine1day," says the single mother. Mebrat is now proudly supporting her son through high school and Yared is learning by example: Yared's goal is to become a doctor and to use his income to support street children around the town of Wukro, where he is attending high school.



HOW A YOUNG BRIDE MADE IT TO HIGH SCHOOL

Mebrat Tesfay's path to education was not an easy one. Back in her village called Mujja, Mebrat had to walk two hours each way to get to the nearest primary school. When she arrived home each evening, she had to complete many chores before she could hit the books and study.

Mebrat's life became more difficult when she was married at 13 years of age. She had two kids, who are now five and two, but Mebrat kept attending class while also managing a household. Although she excelled in school, Mebrat's husband did not want her to continue her education past Grade 8. So Mebrat made a big decision: she filed for a divorce.

Today, 18-year-old Mebrat is a proud scholarship recipient amongst a cohort of 50 Class 2018 Graduate Fund students, and she is savouring her first year at Adigudom High School. For the first time in her life, she has regular access to electricity and clean water and she has plenty of books to read at school. On weekends, she participates in tutorial classes provided by imagine1day to all of our Graduate Fund students.

Back in Mujja village, her parents have started a sheep breeding business with their 3,500 ETB in seed funding. They are looking forward to making enough income to support Mebrat through her education, and are working hard to raise her two kids until she finishes high school in 2018.

"I am not always happy because I am not educated. So my daughter getting this chance with imagine1day makes me so happy," says Mebrat's father, Tesfay Neguse.





HOW ARE THEY DOING?

Although it's too early to tell how our Grade 9 Class of 2018 students are doing (their first high school grades won't be available until this coming March), we know that all of our Graduate Fund students are hard at work. Our Grade 10 students are busy studying for their National Exams. In June they will sit down to write exams spanning every topic: from biology, chemistry and physics to math, Amharic, English, Tigrinya, social studies and history. These exams will determine the course of their future: good results guarantee a spot in preparatory school and eventually, university. Having overcome this obstacle already, our Grade 11 and Grade 12 students are getting ready to graduate, and applying to universities, both at home and abroad. Here is a snapshot of their GPAs as of June 2014:

GPA Scale	Class of 2017	Class of 2016	Class of 2015	Total
90-100%	15	4	1	20 Excellent
80-89	18	5	6	29 Very Good
70-79	19	12	8	39 Good
60-69	7	12	2	21 Satisfactory
50-59	-	1	-	1 Fair
Dropped out	-	1	2	3
Joined Technical School	-	-	2	2
Missed a year of school - no GPA	1	1	-	2
Passed away	-	1	-	1

For various reasons, some students have dropped out of the Graduate Fund program:

- **Class of 2017:** One student dropped out because of illness last year. She is now better, has re-enrolled in high school and is currently attending Grade 9.
- **Class of 2016:** One student dropped out for health reasons, and another missed a year of school because she gave birth. This young mother is now continuing her Grade 10 education.
- **Class of 2015:** One student dropped out because of illness; another failed her Grade 10 National Exam for two subsequent years and is now married; two students joined a technical school and are doing well.

TSIGABU SAYS THANK YOU!

Tsigabu Kiros is an 18-year-old Grade 12 student attending Mekelle High School. One of the youngest of nine children with no mother and an elderly father, Tsigabu's guardian is his 42-year-old sister, Welet Kiros. Thanks to her Business Skills Training and seed money from imagine1day, Welet has been making enough money through grain trading and chicken breeding to support her younger brother through high school.

In the summer of 2013, Tsigabu had the opportunity to go on an adventure to Addis Ababa to improve his English. "I got experience from my summer education," says Tsigabu. "It gave me more confidence in expressing my opinion and to be active in open communication with my teachers, classmates and with my family. It also enabled me to improve my computer skills and my English. I also learned to be very effective in time management in all my tasks. I have an action plan for every day. Through effective time management I am studying hard and I believe in setting possibilities and thinking of solutions for every challenge rather than being hopeless and complaining," he says.

"I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Dianne Burk and her family and to all the staff of imagine1day."



Tsigabu, (right) traveled to Addis Ababa last summer with another imagine1day Graduate Student Amete (left) thanks to the generous contribution of the Burk Family who have supported them since their first year of high school.

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

The Graduate Fund is supported by the generous investment of hundreds of creative individuals who believe in our mission of developing leaders to elevate the world. We would especially like to thank Spence Diamonds, Lunapads, Keen Footwear, Osprey Packs, and donors to imagine1day's Girl Fund for their generous contributions in 2014. On behalf of all our Graduate Fund students and their families, thank you!



**DONORS TO IMAGINE1DAY'S
GIRL FUND**



“Education empowers women. It exposes analytical thinking. Females are 50 per cent of the population; they have to contribute in any decision making in the community.”

- Medhin Hadush Tesfay with her mother, Birhan Hagos.



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