



imagine1day®

- MID YEAR UPDATE: DELLO MENA DISTRICT -

At the beginning of 2014, we started our work in the district of Dello Mena, where education indicators are among the weakest in all of Ethiopia. Only 50% of school aged children are enrolled in school, drop out rates are at 18%, and approximately three quarters the number of girls attend school as compared to boys. Over the next three years, we aim to transform Dello Mena's education system, in partnership with communities and the District Education Office. Today, we're excited to share the incredible progress we're making together, with your support.

THE TOP **FIVE** WAYS YOUR DONATION IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN **DELLO MENA DISTRICT**



1 **ACCESS** -- Two New Schools on the Way



A brand new school in the community of Yadot, in the district of Dello Mena, is currently under construction, and another one is planned in the community of Birbirsa. Right now, students attend over-crowded schools made of mud, wood and straw. Their desks are either broken or absent, their books faded and worn and their windowless classrooms are stuffy and dark - but not for long. Yadot's new school will be ready this fall.



Mothers and fathers say 'if the school facility is no good, why would I send my child to school? They might come back with influenza.' The better the quality of the school, the more parents will send their kids to school." – Sifan Bekele is a 14-year-old Grade 7 student in Yadot.



2

COLLABORATION -- Participatory Planning



"Because the government and community leaders are involved in participatory planning, the communities are accepting of our programs."



–Daniel Ataklti,
imagineIday's M&E and Operations Manager.

Before we started working in Dello Mena in January, we did something different: we asked the local government and community leaders what they need.

To this end, we created a Project Advisory Council (PAC) with representatives from Dello Mena's Offices of Health, Education, Agriculture, Women's Affairs, Administration, Sports and Youth, Water, Social Affairs, Finance, and Communications. Together, we figured out which communities were most in need of educational support and designed programs specifically to meet their needs.

Dello Mena's PAC involvement doesn't stop there. They helped us create training curricula for religious leaders, village leaders and other influential community members throughout the district and they're currently overseeing our construction process.

3

OWNERSHIP -- Community Contribution

Six months since we first trained parents and teachers on different ways they can raise money for their schools, communities in the district of Dello Mena are exceeding our expectations.

The communities of Yadot and Birbirsa have already committed 200,000 ETB (over \$11,000) each towards building new schools in their communities, and other communities are starting to raise funds as well.



“After the capacity development by imagine1day we are focusing on the community contribution. We have been intensely mobilizing the community to contribute and participate in school affairs.”

–Hussein Limo, Parent Teacher Association member, Birbirsa.

4

INNOVATION -- Creating Unique Training Programs

In the district of Dello Mena, our goal is to reduce out-of-school children. To achieve this goal, we created four unique training programs tailored specifically to engage and empower community leaders from 45 communities. Because if community leaders don't believe in the importance of formal education, no one will.



Our **Religious and Clan Leader Training** provided 90 religious and clan leaders an opportunity to compare and discuss what religious texts say about formal education, and to find ways they can encourage families to send their kids to school.

Our **Parent Teacher Association Training** taught 315 parents and teachers how they can raise money to sustain their schools, and the role they can play in reducing the number of out-of-school children in their community.



Our **Community Association Leader Training** gave 164 health workers, women's affairs leaders, agricultural workers and police workers the training to determine how to identify and track students at risk of dropout, as well as how to influence families to send their kids to school. As a result of this training, these community leaders led a door-to-door campaign in February to ensure parents would support their children in attending and staying in school.

Our **Iddir Leader Training** helped 45 leaders of different Iddir groups – which are important social welfare organizations present in almost all Ethiopian communities – identify why their children aren't in school. During our training session in February, Iddir leaders made a dramatic decision: they changed their bylaws so that anyone who does not send their child to school is expelled from the Iddir – a penalty that would leave families living like social outcasts in their own communities.





5

RECRUITMENT -- Child-to-Child Networking

In the district of Dello Mena, more than 35% of Grade 1 students enroll late in school. Grade 1 students also have the highest dropout rate.

To transform this reality, we distributed 180 small chalkboards to the best Grade 5 and 6 students from the district of Dello Mena. Since March, these bright students have been teaching their younger brothers, sisters and neighbours between the ages of four and six.

In four months, 3,371 young students from 44 communities have learned basic ethics, the names of shapes and colours, and even learned how to count and recite the alphabet.

The benefits of Child-to-Child Networking are many: teachers already know which children should enroll in Grade 1 this September, and parents who have already seen the benefits of a basic education are less reluctant to send their kids to school. When they do get to class, these new students will hit the ground running with a strong foundation of knowledge. On top of it all, our 12-year-old student teachers are developing strong leadership and public speaking skills.



imagine1day®

THANK YOU

On behalf of the extraordinary students of Dello Mena, their families, teachers, community members and the imagine1day team, thank you for choosing to invest in Dello Mena's future. With your contribution, we've already been able to accomplish so much. If you would like to continue supporting our work in Dello Mena or any of our other projects, please donate at www.imagine1day.org.