



imagine1day®

# YOUR NEW SCHOOL IS (ALMOST) COMPLETE!

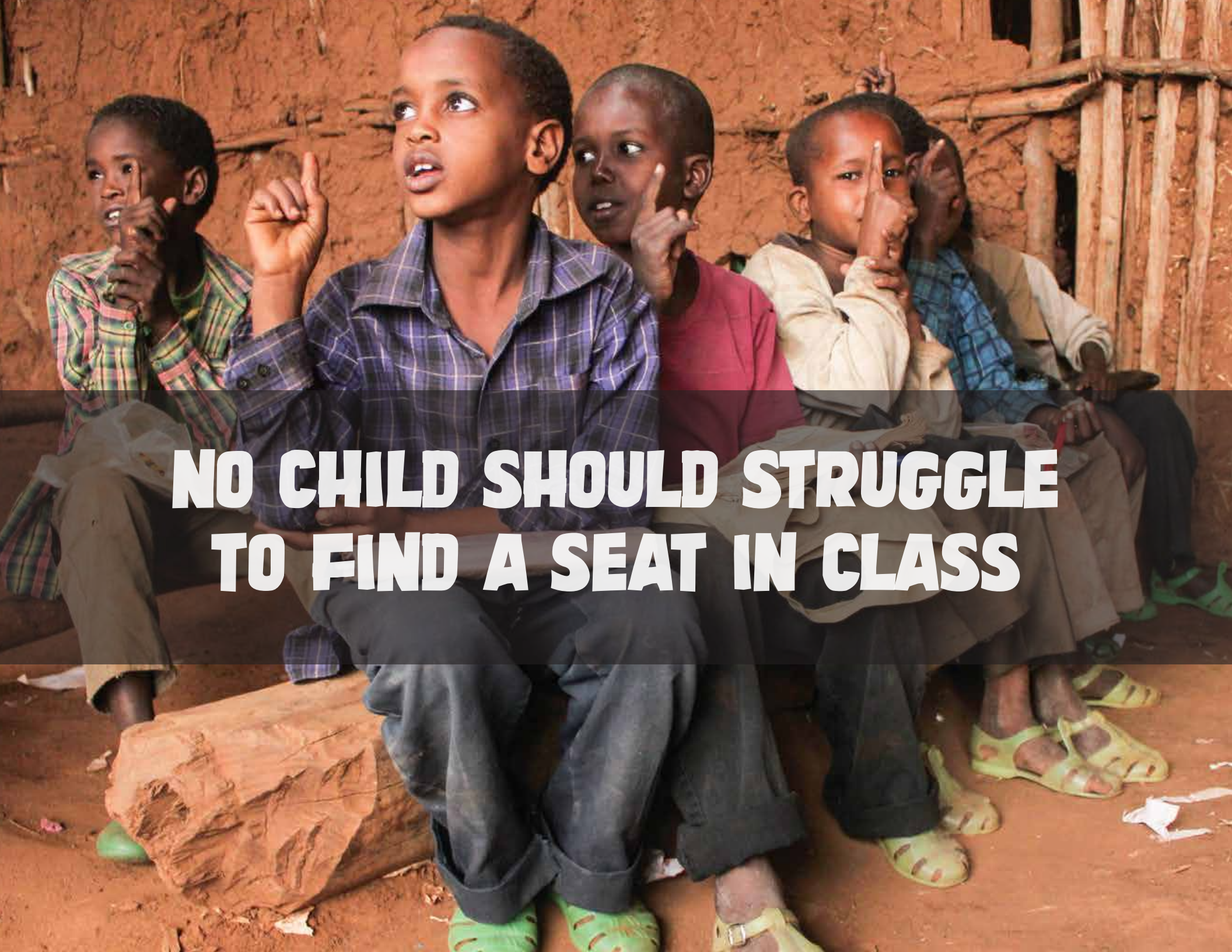


## **Sharyn Mandel was a teacher, heart and soul.**

To her, teaching was more than a profession and more than a post-retirement hobby. Teaching was a calling and her life's purpose. imagine1day is honoured to be a partner in fulfilling Sharyn's final wish of building a school in a developing country. We have created this report so you can see how you have helped Sharyn carry on her legacy in the town of Gobele, in Ethiopia's Bale Zone. Together, we are developing leaders to elevate the world.

“

*to teach a child is to touch the future.”*

A group of five children are sitting on a large, rough log in a classroom. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame, with their right hands raised, pointing upwards. The children are dressed in simple, colorful clothing. The background shows a wall made of reddish-brown mud and a wooden structure. The floor is dirt. A semi-transparent black banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

**NO CHILD SHOULD STRUGGLE  
TO FIND A SEAT IN CLASS**

Founded in 2011, Gobele Primary School looks like it was only ever half finished. Wood framing peeks through incomplete mud walls like a frail rib cage, and sparse rays of sun shine upon bare dirt floors.

A chalk board and rough hewn wood logs are the only furnishings available in all classrooms but one, where



desks wobble precariously under the weight of five pint-sized girls. This is Gobele Primary School, in Ethiopia's rural south, where students are attending Grades 1 through 4.

Or at least it was, until now. Thanks to your generous investment, attending school in the town of Gobele will never be the same again.



# A BRIGHTER FUTURE IS JUST WEEKS AWAY



This September, boys and girls from Gobele will have several new reasons to come to class.

Teachers will have books on various subjects for all their students, there will be enough combined desks for each child, and students can look forward to a future beyond Grade 4.

Gobele's new primary school includes bright, airy classrooms for students in Grades 5 to 8. There will also be a classroom to serve Early Childhood Education, which will improve the odds of children staying in school.



WE DON'T HAVE COMBINED DESKS, WE DON'T HAVE A TOILET, AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLACES TO PLAY. WE ARE HAPPY THIS SCHOOL IS BEING CONSTRUCTED. THIS SCHOOL IS BIG AND BEAUTIFUL."

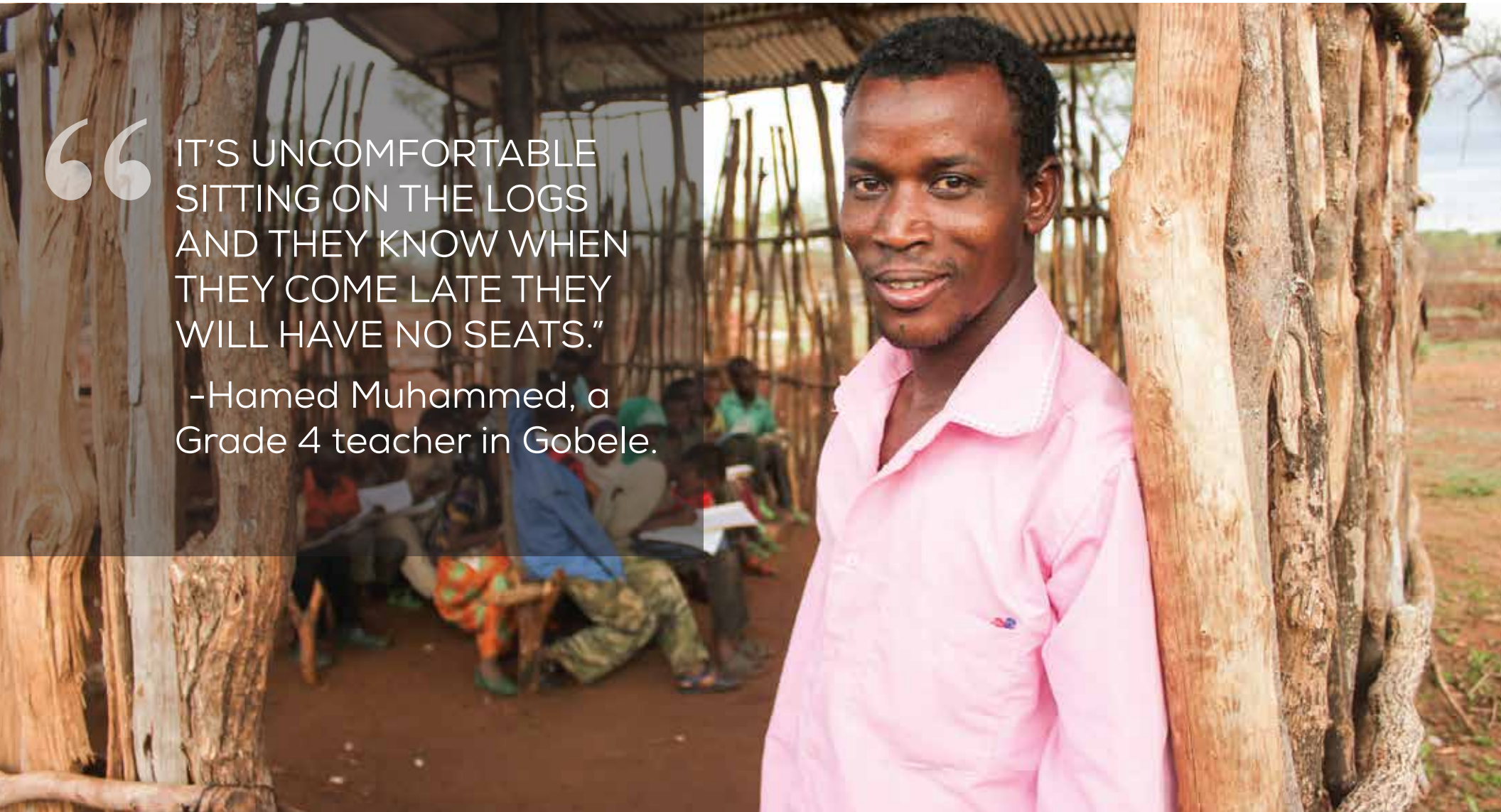


# TRAINING LEADERS FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

“

IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE  
SITTING ON THE LOGS  
AND THEY KNOW WHEN  
THEY COME LATE THEY  
WILL HAVE NO SEATS.”

-Hamed Muhammed, a  
Grade 4 teacher in Gobele.



Early one dreary, wet morning in April, classes are nearly empty. Of the 294 students enrolled in school, less than half are actually present. Another 76 children are simply not enrolled at all.

Since January, we've been working hard with Gobele's community leaders to understand the reasons for poor attendance, and to ensure that all of Gobele's school age children attend classes this fall.

After classroom quality – which we've tackled thanks to you – awareness is the biggest obstacle keeping kids away from school.

Many families don't understand the value of education and require their children to till the fields, tend to cattle, or work at home.

"Sometimes the religious teachings get in the way.

They go to religious education from 5:30am to 7 am and they show up late to school," says Hamed Muhammed, a Grade 4 teacher in Gobele.



Ibrahim Roha, community elder.

With this issue in mind, we invited hundreds of religious leaders, parents, women's affairs workers and other community leaders from 58 communities in the district of Meda Welabu – including the town of Gobele – to talk about the value of formal education, and to compare what religious texts say about girls and boys attending classes. The results have been transformational.

"According to Islam doctrine formal education is a must. You need to know everything in the world," says Ibrahim Roha, a community elder.

# GOBELE'S STUDENT POPULATION

## Current student population



294 current students

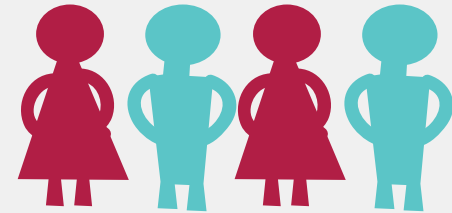


74 girls



220 boys

## Students we're actively recruiting for fall



76 out-of-school children



28 girls



48 boys



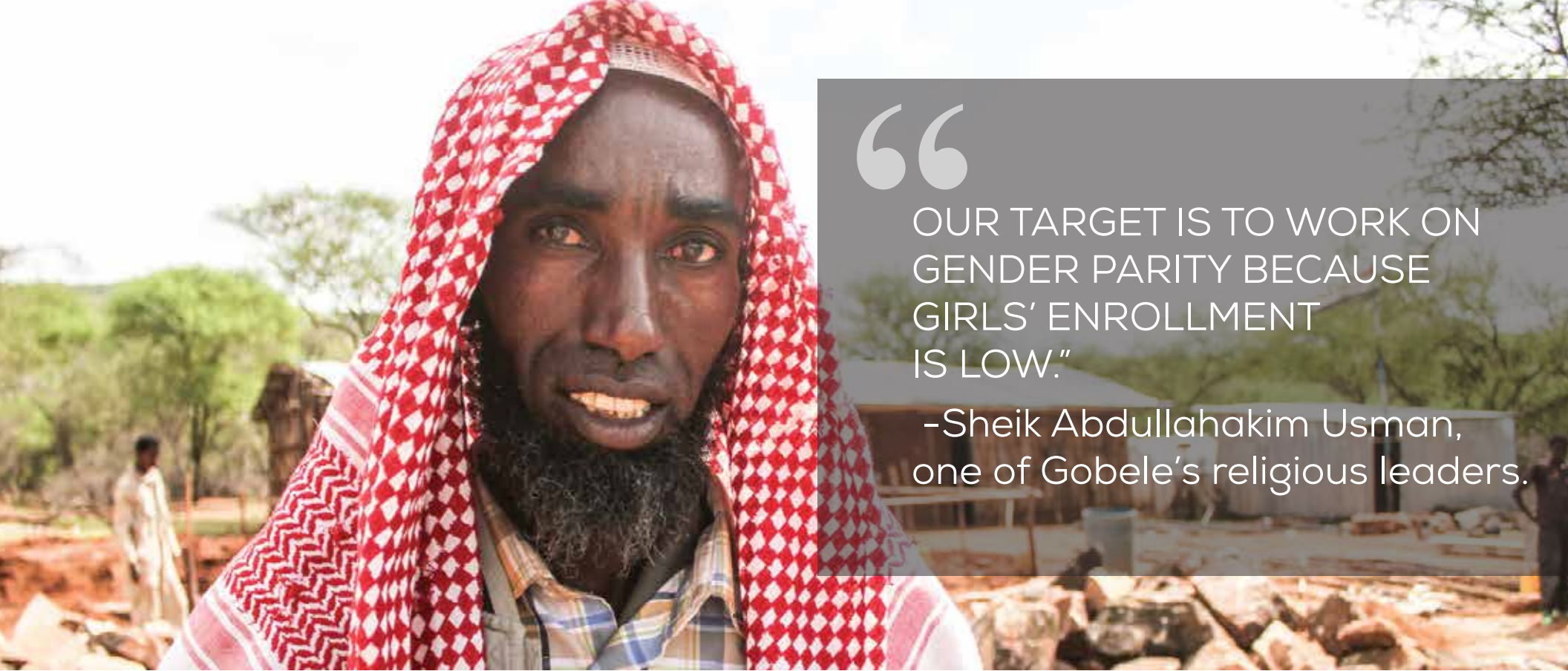
A young girl in a colorful patterned headscarf is the central focus, looking down thoughtfully. In the background, a group of people, including children and women in various colored headscarves, are gathered outdoors under trees. A dark circular graphic on the left contains the title text.

## A SPOTLIGHT ON GIRLS

Like in many other communities in the district of Meda Welabu, there is a jarring shortage of female students in Gobele. Two of the biggest culprits are early marriage and a lack of awareness that girls should even go to school.

Fortunately, change is afoot and everyone – even Gobele’s religious leaders – are on board.





“

OUR TARGET IS TO WORK ON GENDER PARITY BECAUSE GIRLS' ENROLLMENT IS LOW.”

-Sheik Abdullahakim Usman,  
one of Gobele's religious leaders.

While community leaders work on convincing families to postpone their daughters' marriages, imagine1day has done something simple that will encourage dignity and self-confidence in girls: we've built a private latrine for the school.

Until now, girls and boys had to go into the wilderness to answer the call of nature. This made it especially difficult for girls to deal with the challenges of puberty.

“As a female they have to take care of themselves. When there is no latrine they do not want to go to school because they are embarrassed of their natural phenomenon,” says Kadiga Sheik Kadir, a Parent Teacher Association member. Upon reaching this important milestone, big decisions are made. When a family knows their daughter has become a woman in Gobele, a wedding quickly follows.

With access to private latrines, girls can choose to keep their private lives private for longer.

Makuda Adam, Gobele's Women's Affairs leader, knows what's at stake. In 2008, she dropped out of Grade 4 to get married. Since participating in imagine1day's training, Makuda has become a forceful advocate for change. She enrolled in adult functional literacy classes and she is now actively working on getting more girls in school.

“

MY HOPE IS FOR GIRLS  
TO GO TO SCHOOL  
AND COMPLETE THEIR  
EDUCATION - UNLIKE THIER  
MOTHERS WHO NEVER HAD  
A CHANCE.”

-Makuda Adam, Gobele's  
women's affairs leader.



# WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Gobele's Primary School is almost complete, but we have more work to do! Here's a snapshot of some of the things we're working on within this year to ensure children in Gobele have access to the highest quality education.



▲ **Early Childhood Education (ECE) training**

▲ **Reading corners for all classrooms**



▲ **Teacher Training:**  
**Active learning**  
**Life skills**  
**Science**

◀ **School club orientation & supplies**

# THANK YOU

On behalf of the extraordinary students of Gobele, their families, teachers, community members and the imagine1day team, thank you for choosing to invest in a lasting legacy, in honour of Sharyn Mandel.

This October, we will be celebrating Gobele's brand new school alongside Sharyn's loved ones.



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