



imagine1day®

## - MID YEAR UPDATE: MEDA WELABU DISTRICT -

At the beginning of 2014, we started our work in the district of Meda Welabu, where education indicators are among the weakest in all of Ethiopia. Primary school enrollment is at just 46%, drop out rates are at 22%, and there are only two thirds the number of girls in school as compared to boys. Over the next three years, we aim to transform Meda Welabu'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 **MEDA WELABU DISTRICT**



## 1 **ACCESS** --Two New Schools Underway



Two new schools in the communities of Gobele and Batali, in the district of Meda Welabu, are currently under construction. Right now, students in both communities attend overcrowded classrooms 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. Their new classrooms will be ready this fall.

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Our community is inspired by this construction and we plan to enroll more students.”  
- Ragassa Jima, principal, Gobele Primary School.

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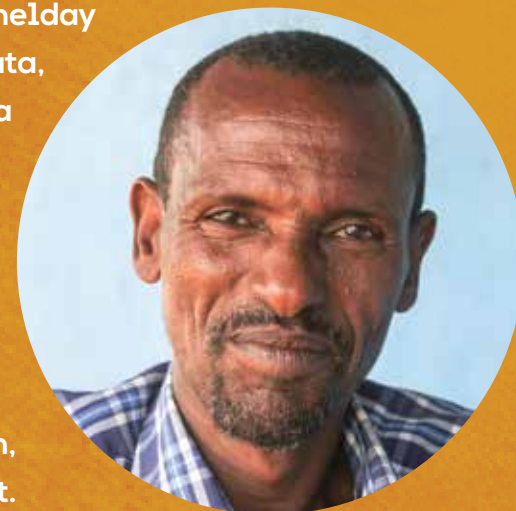
# 2

## COLLABORATION -- Participatory Planning



"First when imagine1day came here to gather data, I didn't believe them. But after a few months they have applied what they told us and I am very happy with them. They mobilize our communities everywhere."

- Jema Tune, Head of Education, Meda Welabu district.



Before we started working in the Meda Welabu district 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 Meda Welabu's Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Women's Affairs, Administration, Water, Sports & Youth, Social Affairs, Finance and Communications. Together, we figured out which communities were most in need of educational support and designed training and programs

Meda Welabu'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 Meda Welabu are exceeding our expectations.

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



"If people are raising their money on time, it means we are creating strong partnerships. Communities are now competing against each other to raise the most money."

– Daniel Ataklti, imagine1day M&E and Operations Manager.



# 4

## INNOVATION -- Creating Unique Training Programs

In the district of Meda Welabu, our goal is to reduce out-of-school children. To achieve this goal, we created four unique training programs tailored specifically to engage community leaders from 58 communities throughout the district. If community leaders don't believe in the importance of formal education, no one will.



Our **Religious and Clan Leader Training** provided 116 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 406 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 232 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 58 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.



## RECRUITMENT -- Child-to-Child Networking

In the district of Meda Welabu, more than 87% of Grade 1 students start school late. Grade 1 students also have the highest dropout rate.

To transform this reality, we distributed 224 small chalkboards to the best Grade 5 and 6 students from the district of Meda Welabu. Since March, these bright students have been teaching their younger brothers, sisters and neighbours between the ages of four and six.

In four months, 2,977 pre-preliminary school age children from 39 communities are now enrolled in a child-to-child program and have learned basic ethics, the names of shapes and colours, and even 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 are able to 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.





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