



SINANA DISTRICT

Project at a Glance

35

Schools will be impacted

26,737

School age children in the district

141,083

Population of Sinana

Our Primary school goals by 2015

PRIMARY SCHOOL NET ENROLMENT RATE



66.6% **90%**
status at kick off by 2015

GENDER PARITY INDEX



0.91 **1**
status at kick off by 2015

DROPOUT RATE



4% **0.5%**
status at kick off by 2015

GRADE 8 COMPLETION RATE



57.2% **75%**
status at kick off by 2015

2012 - 2015 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



6 New primary schools will be built and furnished.



6 Gender segregated latrines will be constructed.



5 Early Childhood Education classrooms will be constructed and furnished.



400 Combined desks (three kids per desk) will be distributed to existing schools.

Schools will be equipped with teaching aids and school supplies.



35

410 Teachers will benefit from teacher training programs: Active Learning, Life Skills, Science, Reading and Writing Skills Improvement and Exam and Measurement.



35 Principals will be trained in school leadership.



245 PTA members will be trained in school leadership.



10 Schools will carry out income generation activities.



3 School water points will be built to promote hygiene, health and abundance.



2 School libraries will be built to satisfy children's thirst for knowledge



9 Project advisory council members will be trained in monitoring and evaluation, and leadership. Annual experience sharing platforms will be held.

WHERE'S SINANA?



ROBE, ETHIOPIA

Sinana is part of the Bale Zone in Ethiopia's Oromia Region.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Located in the lush highlands of southern Ethiopia's Bale Zone, Sinana is one of the Oromia region's largest districts. The surrounding mountains are home to the endemic Nyala, the infamous red wolf, warthogs and baboons.

In early 2011, when imagine1day first began discussions with Sinana's district education office, we learned of the advancements that were already being celebrated. Over the decade prior, student attendance had soared dramatically—up more than 40%—but the district lacked sufficient classroom space to accommodate the growing number of children who wanted to attend school, and overall

education quality was suffering. Despite its commitment to improving its education system, Sinana was rated at the lowest grade level in the region.

At the end of 2012, imagine1day entered into a partnership with Sinana to help catalyse a transformation. Over the following two and a half years we constructed five new schools creating access to primary education for 2,000 children, and we launched a district wide capacity building program, providing leadership and professional development training to teachers, principals, and community leaders across 35 schools.

As a result, grades increased, dropout rates fell, and attendance rates grew. The district has now been given the top grade rating. To ensure long-term success, we will work closely with the district and the schools in 2015, monitoring and furthering their ability to carry their programs forward on their own in the future.





THIS YEAR'S GAME PLAN

Our focus this year is on working with the community and district leaders, as well as school principals and teachers to ensure they have the confidence and capacity to carry their schools forward.

ONE MORE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

We're planning one more construction in Sinana in 2015. Wedged between cacti and farmland, the village of Shallo is working hard to raise their community's financial contribution towards the expansion of their existing primary school. Together we'll build two school blocks with eight new classrooms, along with an eight stall gender divided latrine.

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WILL SET GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Government administrators, school principals, and teachers from 35 schools will be guided in setting their vision and goals so that when we phase out and hand over ownership of their schools, they will have the tools to continue to lead them successfully.

In the Sinana District, community members of all ages and income levels are taking the education of their children to heart and to their pocket books.

The only school Manderina, aged 9, and her friends had ever known was made of wood, mud and straw. There weren't enough desks or chairs, so they sat on dirt floors.



"I BLAME MYSELF FOR NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL, SO I WISH FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR MY CHILDREN. THIS IS WHY I INITIATED OUR COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION."

– *Dessalegn Beyena, PTA Member*

Then in November 2012, leaders from Manderina's hometown of Gamora attended an imagine1day workshop on the importance of community leadership in education. Inspired, Gamora's leaders left the training determined to see a new school in their community.

That's when an unexpected philanthropist stepped to the forefront. Dessalegn Beyena, a school security guard, was amongst the first to make a contribution towards building their new school. He donated a whopping 1,000 birr out of the 6,000 birr he earns annually from his subsistence farm. Beyena's generosity inspired his community to pitch in towards raising the 200,000 birr (almost \$11,000) they needed as their contribution to build a new school in partnership with imagine1day. In 2014, Gamora's dream of a new school became a reality.

Today, Manderina is busy attending school in her brand new classroom and doing her homework so she can fulfill her dream of becoming a doctor. "When I first heard from my teacher that a school was going to be built, I was so excited, but I wasn't expecting something like this. We are eager to get to our classrooms every morning," she says.