

FACTSHEET



Hailemariam
& Roman
FOUNDATION

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

AT A GLANCE

Goal: To improve educational outcomes in South Omo Zone's pastoral communities by addressing food insecurity through school meals and empowering low-income women through small business opportunities.

Donor: China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD)

Duration: Ongoing since 2021/22

Total Funding: USD 180,148.36 (annual)

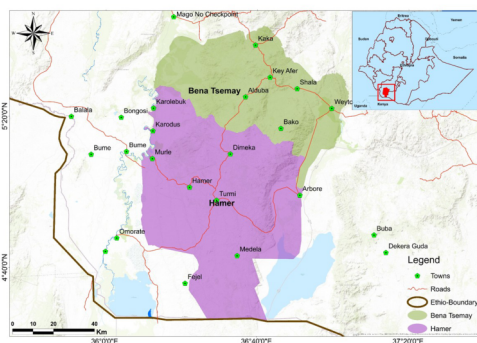
Beneficiaries:

| Direct: More than 2,500 school children in 10 primary schools annually

| Indirect: 23, 120 households

Geographic Focus:

10 primary schools in Bena Tsemay and Hamer woredas and Turmi Town Administration of South Omo zone.



Implementing Partners:

| Ministry of Education
| Ministry of Health
| Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
| Regional, Zona and Woreda Education and Women & Children Affairs offices



High level officials of CFRD & HRF visiting the progress of SMP in Schools at South Omo Pastoral Woredas

BACKGROUND

Despite Ethiopia's overall progress in education, student enrollment in South Omo zone remains low, particularly in pastoral & agro-pastoral communities. Children in these areas face multiple barriers to education, including food shortages, long travel distances, & inadequate educational equipment, which hinder their ability to compete with students from other regions of the country. These challenges contribute to high absenteeism and dropout rates, limiting access to quality education.

The School Meal Program (SMP) is a key initiative by the Hailemariam & Roman Foundation (HRF) in partnership with the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) to improve education outcomes in the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of the South Omo zone. The program aims to enhance school enrollment, attendance, and academic performance by addressing food insecurity among schoolchildren & enhancing access to educational resources.

Yenat Weg Charitable Association, established in July 2014 by the former First Lady of Ethiopia H.E. Roman Tesfaye, initiated Ethiopia's first large-scale school meals program in Addis Ababa—benefiting over 21,000 children from low-income families until 2019. In 2020, it merged with the Hailemariam & Roman Foundation to extend its support to underserved pastoral areas of South Omo Zone.

APPROACH

The School Meal Program takes a holistic approach to enhancing education by integrating nutrition, community engagement, capacity building, advocacy, and sustainability. H.E. Roman Tesfaye, Co-Founder of the Hailemariam & Roman Foundation (HRF), plays a crucial role in championing the program. Her dedication has been instrumental to its success, ensuring that thousands of children in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities receive the nutrition and educational support they need to thrive.

KEY ACTIVITIES

| Provision of Nutritious School Meals: Ensuring daily meals for students to improve nutrition and encourage school attendance.

| Teacher Training and Capacity Building: Enhancing teaching quality through training programs.

| Community Awareness Campaigns: Promoting the benefits of education, particularly for girls, and advocating for gender equality.

| Advocacy against Harmful Practices: Working with local leaders to eliminate barriers like high dowries that hinder girls' education.

| Employment for Local Mothers: Hiring & training disadvantaged women to prepare local nutritious meals for students.

| Provision of School Materials: Supplying learning materials, including school bags (Panda Packs) with stationery, supplementary books, computers, and other equipment to enhance learning experience.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- | Increased students' enrollment, attendance, and academic performance.
- | Reduced malnutrition and dropout rates.
- | Improved student retention, teaching quality and teacher motivation.
- | Strengthened community support for education, especially for girls, leading to higher enrollment and retention.
- | Reduced early marriage and high dowries, enabling more girls to complete education.
- | Improved economic empowerment and stable income for local mothers.
- | Enhanced learning and teaching experience.



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