

St Matthew's Children's Fund Ethiopia – creating a future for Ethiopia's children

Although things have improved in Ethiopia since the major famines of 1984, many families are still very poor. Climate change has led to unpredictable rainfall and people still have to rely on food aid if harvests fail.

However over the past 25 years the proven community development approach of St Matthew's Children's Fund Ethiopia (SMCF) and its partner the Jerusalem Children and Community Development Association (JeCCDO) means that many more communities can now stand on their own feet.

SMCF and JeCCDO organise and train local community development organisations which know where the need is greatest. At their request, we support the carers of vulnerable children so that they can afford to send their children to school, and not abandon them to exploitative labour or the streets; we help those carers to earn a living by providing training and start-up capital; We help children to grow up in a healthy community by teaching people to grow vegetables on spare land to provide nutritious food and by providing clean water, sanitation and advice on HIV/AIDS prevention. We also help communities to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Communities where SMCF and JeCCDO work are not immune from the effects of drought or severe weather, but they are in a better place to recover them.

The Twenty5 appeal will help many more communities to care for their children and the rest of their members too.



Twenty five years after the famine

She gives up her cup of coffee to keep a child off the streets...



...will you do the same?

- The money saved by giving up some coffee each week enabled Seble to start a business which helps her look after her own son and an orphan child from her community.
- The money you save by giving up just one cup of coffee a week could help Seble, and women like her, care for an orphaned child by providing clothing, school materials and pocket money.

Seble Muluken lives in a poor slum district in Ethiopia. Not only is she a mother to her own son, Abebe, but she also cares for 10 year old orphan **Tadias**.



Tadias in his uniform

Tadias could easily have drifted into a life on the streets when his mother died. Fortunately he and Seble live in an area where JeCCDO (the Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organisation) are working. JeCCDO helps communities to look after the needs of their people, including orphaned and abandoned children.

The community asked Seble, herself widowed, if she would care for Tadias. JeCCDO provided Tadias with clothes, school uniform and exercise books, as well as some pocket money. But they also provided Seble with help too.

They set up a self-help group, where women meet once a week to support each other and to save money. There Seble learned that if she could save just 1 Birr (around 5p) each week, she would soon have enough to start a small business.

But the only way she could find the money was to give up some coffee. Drinking coffee is very important in Ethiopian society, where family and friends catch up. To give this up is a huge sacrifice, but one that Seble was prepared to make to help her family.

Will you be prepared to make a similar sacrifice to help families in Ethiopia care for orphaned children?

Today Seble has a successful business making and selling injera, the Ethiopian staple food. "Thanks to the self-help group, I learned how to save just a little money to set up a business. I now have a job where I can work hard and improve things for my family. We are very happy that JeCCDO came to our community."

- Just £5 a month (or less than one high street cup of coffee a week) could help provide food, clothes and school materials for an orphaned child
- £10 a month (or one fewer fancy coffee per week) could provide training and materials to set up a self-help group for women in a poor community.
- £25 a month (£ 300 a year) could supply clothes, school books and pocket money for a child *and* business training and support for their foster carer.

Names and details have been changed to protect vulnerable children



www.smcfethiopia.org

Registered Charity no. 297391

Yes I would like to help children in Ethiopia

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Here is my single gift of £ _____

I would like to give: £5 £20 _____ a month/quarter/year*
beginning from _____ (date) from my account held at

Bank name: _____

Bank address: _____

A/c name: _____

A/c number: _____ sort code: _____

This is in addition to/replaces any existing standing order(s)*



If you are a tax payer and sign this simple declaration, we can reclaim the tax you have paid on this donation, greatly increasing its value to us.

I am a UK tax payer and would like SMCF to claim back the tax I have paid on this and any donation I make in the future.

I am not a UK tax payer

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to: St Matthew's Children's Fund Ethiopia, 3rd Floor, Downstream Building, 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9BG.

Please make any cheques payable to St Matthew's Children's Fund.

* Delete as appropriate