

# Annual Review 2009

St Matthew's Children's Fund Ethiopia

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Photo © Frédéric Courbet



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Children's Fund Ethiopia

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## Chairman's Report

**JeCCDO and SMCF have been celebrating twenty five years since our beginnings, and every year sees new developments, new ideas and new initiatives**

We have come a long way from those first days when we set up orphanages, and children arrived in desperate circumstances. SMCF sent freelance BBC journalist Angela Robson and photographer Frederic Courbet to track down some of those first children. Together they collected amazing stories and pictures of how these people's lives had changed as a result of the care they received in the children's homes and how, in spite of coping with disabilities such as blindness or loss of a limb, they now work in different ways to build community. We also have a new film record of the work, made by Reko Productions, part of the Remarkable Group, who continue to support SMCF by giving expertise and time.

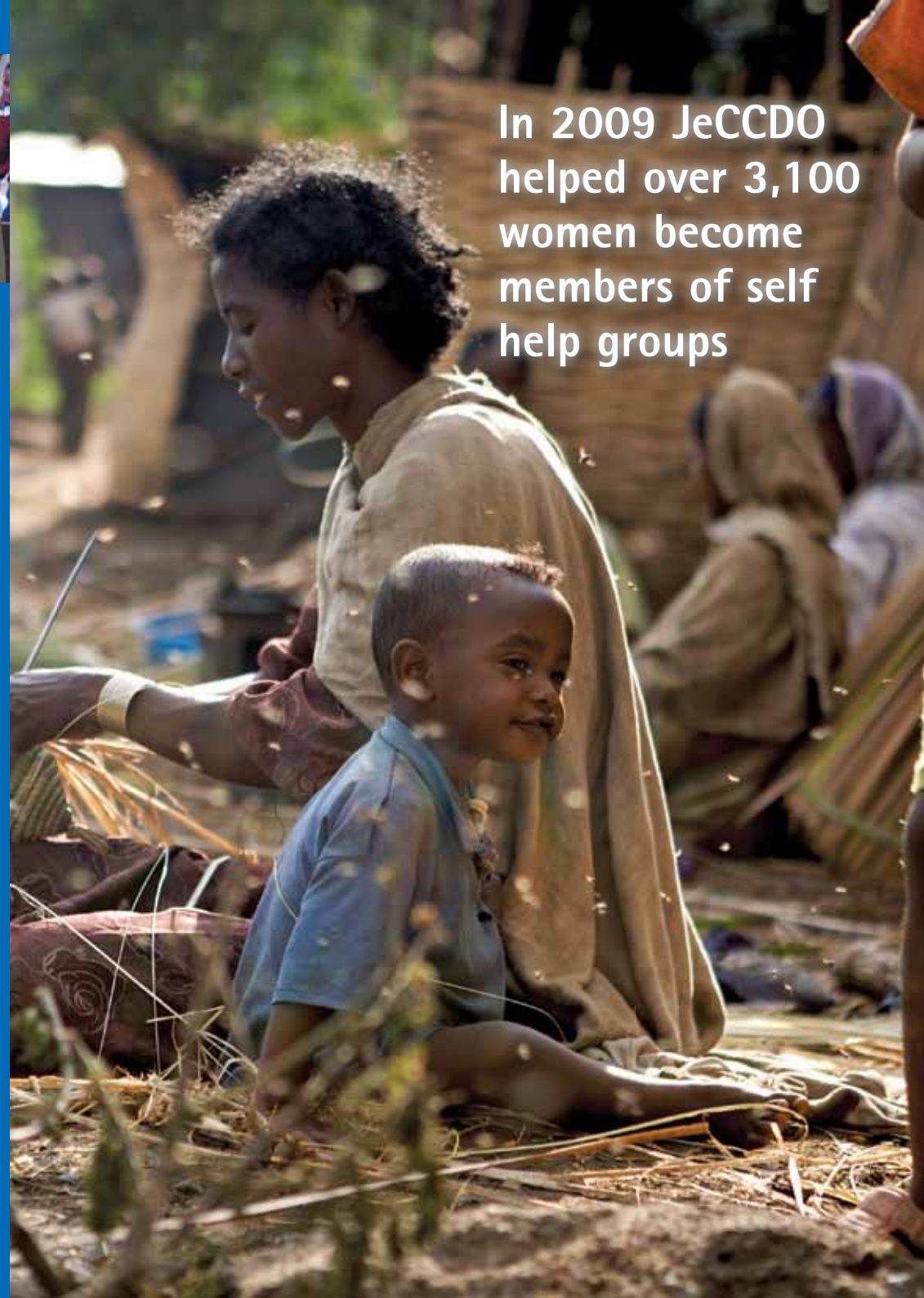
In Ethiopia our work continues to develop and grow. One of our aims is to enable communities to manage their own projects, and in the last year, more projects have been handed over to the Community Development Associations - in Dire Dawa, Bahir Dar and other areas. This process is set to continue.

New initiatives included JeCCDO participating in the Protecting Basic Services programme working with the national government and World Bank on improving the quality of, and access to, government education services. JeCCDO's Citizen Report Card approach was a great success and is being used as a model nationwide as the project develops. We are also working increasingly with other Community Based Organisations - and so the JeCCDO approach is spreading to new areas. As well as carrying out urban development work we are increasingly sharing our ideas with others and setting up training programmes.

It remains a challenge for SMCF to find sources of funding. We were delighted to gain a major grant from the Baring Foundation for the project with the Negede Woitto. Our tiny staff team in the UK - of one and half posts - has carried out dedicated and committed work and has maintained giving levels as well as exploring new ideas. The trustees - and the beneficiaries in Ethiopia - owe Pete Jones and Glynys Sykes a huge debt of gratitude. These are exciting times for JeCCDO/SMCF and we are looking forward to new challenges, new opportunities and new friendships as we work together.



**In 2009 JeCCDO helped over 3,100 women become members of self help groups**



# *Never say never*

Twenty five years after the famine of 1984/5 millions of people are still living in dire poverty in Ethiopia. However in the areas our partner JeCCDO works people are showing the rest of the world that Ethiopia can create a better future for itself.

In 2005 Addis Alem (population 12,000) was one of the poorest areas in the city of Dire Dawa with the highest economic and social problems in the region. The local government, the police and fellow NGOs advised JeCCDO not to get involved in such a dangerous place. They believed the people were past saving.

However, this is exactly the sort of place where people are in most need of help. Keen never to say never, JeCCDO encouraged local people to come together to form a community development association. With patient discussions mediated by JeCCDO people agreed their priorities and developed a plan of action.

Just as the community was beginning to come together, disaster struck in 2006, when a terrible flood ripped through the community killing hundreds of people and dislocating many more. Despite this setback, the deep poverty, other natural disasters and the scepticism of others, much has been achieved.



*The flood of 2006 caused severe devastation.*

# Your donations have made all of this possible

## The following development activities were selected and managed by elected representatives from Addis Alem Community Development Association

**216 orphans** have been supported through financial payments to carers and clothes and school materials provided for an 18 month period. During this time the carers have been trained in business skills and provided with start up funds to set up their own businesses and become self sufficient and no longer reliant on the financial assistance.

**41 children** have received intensive counselling and ongoing support.

**77 street children** have been reunified with their families and are now attending school.

**Ongoing counselling** has been given to prevent a return to the streets.

**4 anti aids clubs** have been established, in an area where HIV/Aids had devastated many lives. So far 1,064 people have been trained on HIV/Aids issues, reducing the rate of infection in the community.

**20 people** living with HIV and Aids have been given credit and training to set up their own small businesses.

**8 tutorial classrooms** have been set up providing additional education for children who have missed school because of their poor backgrounds – so far more than 2,200 children have attended.

**522 children** who cannot attend school because they have to work for their family have attended non-formal education classes at a suitable time.

**A children's library** has been built and 4,700 books procured. A minimum of 80 children use the library every day on a shift basis.

**4 traditional birth attendants** have been trained

**37 children from Addis Alem** went to university last year – and 30 in the previous year . Before the library only 2 or 3 children went to university from the community every year...

**144 young people** have been trained in vocational skills (hairdressing, construction, driving, catering etc)

**400 households** have been involved in savings and credit through self help groups, where women come together, save money and set up small businesses.

**Family planning information**, advice and training has been provided. Previously Addis Alem had a very high birth rate but now, thanks to the family planning people think about their economic situation first and consequently lower birth rate

**25 communal latrines** have been constructed and 21 others previously in a poor state have been maintained. This has had a dramatic impact on the health of children in particular.

**20 houses** all of which were in a state of terrible disrepair have been upgraded

**40,000 square metres of stone wall terracing** has been built on the surrounding hill sides to prevent flash floods from threatening lives and property

**A tree nursery** developed to grow saplings and plants with which to reforest the hills

**2 check dams built** to recharge the ground water for the community and to prevent flooding

**40 households** provided with sheep and goats and husbandry training

**200 households** have received training in conservation based bio intensive gardening

**70 households** provided with poultry and husbandry training



Photo © Frederic Courbet



## Now the community can stand on its own feet

During 2009, the Addis Alem Community Development Association achieved legal status, and began to take on full responsibility for all financial, management and operational issues. Early in 2010 it became fully independent of financial support from SMCF and JeCCDO.

The Association has an annual budget of 400,000 birr (£20,000) which it uses to fund development projects.

This income comes from:

- **A community owned grain mill** which generates a steady profit from sales of grain to community members (at below the market rate) and to other members of the public (at the market rate)
- **A community dairy herd and dairy** provide milk to the community in any quantity (so that even the poorest can buy for their children) with profits going to the community
- **Income generated from interest on the revolving fund.**
- **Income from the rent of communal shower rooms.**

To continue the work the Association is:

- **Constructing a small shop**
- **Planning a community bakery**

**Afewerk Negasi:** 'I do not have the words to describe JeCCDO and the Community Association. I am crying now but it is because of joy. I am one of the poorest people in the community. I sell bread for a few coins every day, but now I have two children who are at university. They went to tuition classes and spent all their time studying in the library, they even helped out as volunteers there during their spare time. The community association has made the children's education possible. Everybody in this area loves this organisation. When my children graduate from university they will come back and benefit this community and also this country.'



**Jafar Kazali and Gion Desalgn:** Jafar and Gion are beneficiaries of JeCCDO. Both of them lost their mothers and live with their fathers who are elderly and poor. They currently receive support in terms of school fees and all materials. Both boys have an outstanding academic record. They were awarded scholarships to Besrate Gabriele, one of the best private high schools in Dire Dawa. As a result of their extraordinary efforts, Jafar and Gion were selected to begin ninth grade at the school.



Jafar and Gion are both regular users of the library that JeCCDO established in Addis Alem. Besides using the resources, they also serve as volunteers in the library in the evenings. Their hard work and determination has paid off, both boys were recently accepted into university. They attribute their success to the educational opportunities that JeCCDO has provided throughout the years. When asked what they want to be in the future, Jafar aspires to be a doctor while Gion would like to be an engineer. When they graduate both want to support orphaned and vulnerable children.



**Kemero Osman:** Kemero Osman is a 45 year old widow responsible for an extended family of 15 including her 5 children. She received training on urban agriculture as she has access to some land, a hand dug well and also had members of her family to help her.

*"Before the training I used to produce pepper, tomato and kale on a small area year after year but the production was very poor and some times there was no harvest. So I gave up and I sat doing nothing".*

Following the training Kemero's family started growing peppers, salad, swiss chard, aubergines, beetroot, cucumber, papaya, oranges and lemons. They worked hard and became highly successful in harvesting fresh fruit and vegetables for household consumption and for sale. Now her family eats vegetables when they like. By selling the surplus Kemero earns 70 birr a week (about £3.50) which she uses to cover household expenses, school stationery for her children and the expenses of the pump for their well. Kemero was also given 5 improved chicken by JeCCDO. Using local hens to hatch their eggs, she now owns 17 chickens. She collects 5-8 eggs every day, which earn her around 18 birr a week (about £1) further improving her household food security and increasing the nutrition available to her family.

## I am Yohannes Shetaye

I am 10 years old. I lost my dad and mum when I was a little kid. Now I am living with my poorest aunt.

My aunt has a large family. It was hard for her to feed all of us. She worked as a daily labourer in the town. We did not go to school because she used all of the money for our food and couldn't afford uniforms or books. I helped her by collecting firewood, looking after the little children and fetching water.

Three years ago, my aunt heard about JeCCDO. She went to them and explained my situation, the organisation agreed to support me and send me to school. That day brought hope and really changed my life.

Two years ago when I was 8 I went to school for the first time. I knew right away that I was in a different world. I could see children of my age sitting on a big lawn at the school, laughing, walking together and playing bingo. I smiled because I was thinking I will be a great man after studying at this great school."

The next day, I collected school materials from JeCCDO, exercise books, pens, pencils, and put them in the bag they gave me. I got to take all of this with me to school. My classroom was 1A. Since I started school, I love science. I test everything in the world! I am now in grade 3. Thanks to JeCCDO, this term I became the 3rd best student in my school.

I am receiving supplies for my schooling every month and 100 birr (about £5) through my aunt from JeCCDO. My future plan is to be a social worker because I want to help children like me. And I want to help the poor and old people. Once again, thank you JeCCDO and all the kind people who support us.



“Two years ago when I was 8, I went to school for the first time ever”

## Saving for my child

Zere Alemayehu, a member of "Kotbe Ielije" (Saving for my Child) Self Help Group, explains how her life has changed.

"I was born and brought up in Desie. I moved to Debre Berhan three years ago with my husband and two children. We used to live on the very small income my husband earned, but it was not enough. Then I heard about the Self Help Group approach that JeCCDO was promoting in our area. I consulted several women in my neighbourhood and with JeCCDO's help we organized ourselves into "Kotbe Ielije" Self Help Group.

"Once our group was formed you wouldn't believe our commitment to saving. We also discussed a whole range of issues and found this to be very helpful in our lives. I took a loan from my savings to make injera, the local bread, and started earning an income.

Then our group quickly reached a stage where we could join other Self Help Groups to form a Cluster Level Association. This would allow our group to take loans from banks and micro finance institutions. Surprisingly I was elected as a chair person of the CLA. Can you believe it? It was only when I started to do the role that I realised I did have the potential, the capability. Of course without the training, facilitation and experience sharing of the project I wouldn't have had this ability."

"Let me tell you the changes in our life. When I first came to Debre Berhan I had no one to talk to except my husband and kids. Now I am a member of a group of 20 women and the chair of more than 150 people. At the beginning, my husband was not happy, but now he understands. Even he has started saving 10 birr (60 pence) per week to support my efforts."



“I realised I did have the potential”



# About SMCF

SMCF was established in 1985 to support an Ethiopian-led NGO in its efforts to help care for orphans and children abandoned as a result of famine and civil war. Today, SMCF continues its longstanding partnership with the Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organisation (JeCCDO) in Ethiopia, through funding community-led, sustainable development projects to ensure children can be well looked after in their own communities.

These projects help to raise the capacity of Ethiopian urban communities so that they are more able to respond to the effects of poverty and to the needs of disadvantaged children – especially those orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Our funding currently supports projects for orphaned and vulnerable children, education, health, income generation, urban agriculture and the environment.



## Thank you to all our supporters in 2009

Comic Relief; The Baring Foundation; The John Ellerman Foundation; The JJ Charitable Trust; The Maurice and Hilda Laing Trust; The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust; Hambleden Valley Africa Link; Steer Davies Gleave; The Rowan Trust; The Hilden Trust.

We would like to thank our many individual sponsors and church groups for their continued and much valued support during 2009.

## Financial summary 2009

Income	Total funds £	Expenditure	£
Gift aid donations	53,562	Direct payment to Ethiopia	1,076,274
Individual donations	9,760	Fundraising	61,868
Churches	3,033	Management & administration	13,095
Trust funding	594,355	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,151,237</b>
Interest	3,730	<i>balance brought forward</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>664,440</b>	<i>£549,176 at 01.01.09</i>	

*For a copy of the full accounts, please contact SMCF.*

## Board of trustees

<b>Chair</b>	The Reverend Dr John Binns
<b>Secretary</b>	The Reverend Jonathan Burke
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr Robert Stallard
<b>Trustees</b>	Mrs Pippa Sandford, Dr Elizabeth Watson, Sir Robin Christopher, Mr David Denham, Dom Colin Battell OSB, Ms Michelle Law, Mrs Margaret Ingram.
<b>Staff</b>	Mr Peter Jones, Director Mrs Glynys Sykes, Fundraiser