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جمعية الإغاثة والتنمية الإرترية

Eritrean Relief and Development Association

02/10/2019

To Whom It May Concern

To all members and supporters of Eritrean Relief and Development Association (ERDA) all over the world; we sent out our greetings and wish you success from the bottom of our hearts in your mission to ascertain the rights and dignity of people; in the name of our refugee brothers and sisters.

You have sent us to convey your message to our troubled people and gave us support in ideas, material and monetary help. Accordingly, we now invite you to read some of the report from 2019.

After a successful visit to the United States of America and Europe, on 26/05/2019 we travelled to Ethiopia to accomplish the public mission. We safely arrived in Ethiopia on 27/05/2019. Because there was change in management at Administration for Refugee & Returnee Affairs (ARRA) we started introducing our work to all the new management divisions. We had a big meeting and presented the director of ARRA a certificate that describes about ERDA. The meeting took almost 4 hours and it was unifying and encouraging to all our justice seeking people and members of ERDA and we were delighted about that. ARRA promised us that they would provide advice and assistance and that their office would be open for ERDA.

According to the encouragement we received, we had a big meeting with management and discussed with ARRA for the budget for the 2019 plan and about setting up priorities. Then, we anonymously decided on the following:

1. For the organization to go to 4 refugee camps and Knin and Qinito, i.e: Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Hisas, Shimelba, Knin and Qinito, to the best of its ability to provide eye treatments.
2. Building a school and clinic in Knin and Qinito; and providing maintenance for the water; and providing school supplies for students.
3. Encouraging organizations and federation of young people at the four camps and accepting them as new organizations of 2019; and giving them monetary aid and sport supplies.
4. To make sure that the support provided for mental illness patients, women association, association for the disabled, association of the elderly, association of diabetic patients, and association for the HIV patients; not be limited to Mai Aini and Adi Harsh camps but to also be extended to Hisas and Shimelba.
5. Giving monetary support for new youth art organizations in Hisas and Shimelba for buying musical equipment.

6. Moreover, through special consideration, to provide temporary monetary support to two families who had severe problems.

Ladies and gentlemen to accomplish the above mentioned board decisions it took time and consideration of the worrying current security situation that you are all aware of. Thus, it is not hard to realize that there is a need to take careful measures.

In any case we decided to accomplish the goals and we started the program. We bought from Addis Ababa items like notebooks, pencils, sharpener, eraser, soccer and volley balls with the pumps, T-shirt and shorts, machines to measure sugar levels for diabetics. Also, on top of the eyeglasses we brought from Germany, we were buying eye glasses for short sightedness for 1.00 – 4.00 measuring by consulting with eye doctors through a period of time and kept them at ARRA storage.

The main reason we were going back and forth ARRA's storage is because the organization does not have its own storage house and cars. After we finish purchasing all that we need, we presented the list of all purchased items to ARRA's head of logistics and we requested in writing if they can keep it in their storage. They accepted our request and properly transported it for us.

Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters since we are certain that when we do these things you were by our sides in your thoughts, we vowed not to lose hope and slack in our daily activities.

After this long and tiring preparation, before starting our journey to start the program, we realized that we needed to get information on security from members and supporters of this great cause from all over the world. Especially security condition in Knin and Qnito should be closely monitored.

Through board decision we realized that the project could not be performed in Knin and Qnito based on the research we did on the current situation. Thus they gave thanks to all the support they had received so far; that is help with school and clean water etc. And they also gave their heartfelt gratitude to all members and supporters all over the world that played a role in realizing such deeds.

Therefore, in line with ERDA's slogan which states "from the people, to the people"; we decided to allocate the budget for Knin and Qnito to the refugees in the four camps.

Ladies and gentlemen, to accomplish mission described above on 10/08/2019 we met with administrators of Maebel school and we set up a plan, we agreed to provide the students and their parents with eye treatments and school supplies.

Based on our agreement, to accomplish our goals, we decided to do it in Maeble Sigredob school 14/09/2019.

We met with ARRA officials on 12/08/2019 to arrange the big mission to be performed at the 4 Eritrean refugee camps, and to take the donations for Knin and Qnito that were in the storage (warehouse). The meeting lasted 3 and a half hour and we decided to prepare for ERDA's medical mission and seminar for October and the timings on the various missions to be done. To that effect, we made sure all camp administrators will receive directives.

To do the Knin and Qnito mission, we set off from Mekele on 13/09/2019, then from Shire, and then we arranged for eye specialist and equipment to come from Axum.

On the planned date, i.e on 14/09/2019 we arrived at Maeble Sigredob school and we were anticipating a lot of people to come from the two villages, however due to the holidays and the rainy season not a lot of people benefited from it.

Nevertheless some students and parents got eye treatment and received school supplies, shoes, and undergarments. 22 patients got eye glasses, 2 of which were children. The one day successful public service ended with the participants thanking members of ERDA for all the help they had received and are receiving and hoped that the support would continue.

After providing relatively successful aid to parents and the youth, on 18/09/2019 I returned to Addis Ababa for a meeting with ARRA officials and management on important social issue. By meeting with ARRA management once again and after we informed them about the great work we have done so far, we discussed about the increase of the refugee influx and their challenges and solutions as well as discuss about security issues with the appropriate sectors.

Moreover, we discussed with the managements and representatives about the issue of individual families who are in great problems, since according to the rules of the organization we have not been helping individuals and the ERDA management wanted to think about what to do to help them based on human compassion.

Ladies and gentlemen, members and supporters, we all understand that it does not mean that everything will be available to accomplish what has been described above. It is required to have a lot of patience and perseverance.

On 03/10/2019 since we needed a lot of preparations to start on the big mission that is waiting for us at the Eritrean refugee camps in Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Hisas, and Shimelba; we collected the remaining items from various storages in 08/10/2019 and we transported it to the main storage where most items were.

The following day on 09/10/2019, we had an appointment to sign a contract with eye care professionals in Shire and we arrived at the place of appointment. After a lot of discussions, due to the shortage of eye care professionals in the country, they asked for more than our organizations capacity, and since we had no other alternative we agreed with the price they gave us. Then we signed contracts with two professionals.

However, based on the contract, they served with all of their ability despite the hot weather and unsuitable situation with the crowd of people being helped. They worked for 6 days, working 12 hours and treated up to 1756 (one thousand seven hundred and fifty six) patients; and from them 959 (nine hundred fifty nine) received eye glasses. After looking at the great work and dedication they have demonstrated, if it was not due to the limited capacity of our organization, we later realized that the pay they received was not enough. According to our view they did a successful work and we therefore were able to receive certificate from ARRA & UNIICR. The pay they received from the start to finish of the job was 15,800 Birr (fifteen thousand eight hundred). They submitted a signed document that proved they received the money.

To accomplish the set up programs, we had an early short meeting with ARRA officials on 10/10/2019. After that using the car and driver assigned for us, we loaded our items and started traveling to Mai Aini refugee camp. We arrived safely. We had a meeting with the representatives of the people and set up priorities, and started with the eye treatment. Side by side we had a seminar for the elders association and they were given 12,000 birr (twelve thousand) for their association as they have requested and were decided by the committee; in front of all members and ARRA monitors. The seminar went very well and they thanked ERDA for all the assistance and temporary and lasting support they have received and the meeting ended with slogans, good spirits and success. By using the monetary help they received they opened water and soft drinks distributing facility and they help each other. They submitted a gratitude document that proving their receipt that was signed by their representatives.

On 11/10/19 while the eye treatment was going on, side by side there was a seminar for the Mai Aini women's association one of the strong associations there. As they had asked ERDA for monetary assistance in a letter to develop their association, they were given some money based on the committee's decision. The seminar was very good and it showed that their association was growing and being powerful from year to year. This was due to their hard work as opposed to the gift.

In the meeting we were able to find out that by using the help they had been getting from ERDA they had opened restaurant and cafeteria and had grown their association. To help as future support of their association they were given 15,000 (fifteen thousand) Birr in front of the peoples' representatives and members. They submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

At the end of the meeting they gave thanks to all the members and supporters of ERDA all over the world and they especially asked their fellow women to continue their support.

The same mentioned day, while the eye treatment was going on, we continued our meetings with Tinsae Mai Aini association (for mental health patients). We went to their place with the representative and visited to check their condition because in 2018 we had given them 50,000 (fifty thousand) Birr and we wanted to see what has been done. There is nothing money can't do, they had received great care more than we expected, their food their sleeping condition and entertainment was provided for them. We were also informed at the meeting by the leaders of the organization that there have been some people who were able to resume their normal life. To help as future support of their association they were given 30,000 (thirty thousand) Birr as they had requested in a letter. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

The organizers gave heartfelt thanks to all the members and supporters of ERDA and asked for psychiatrics to be sent in the future.

Again while the eye treatment was going on, we continued our meetings with association of disabled Eritrean refugees of Mai Aini. It was mentioned in the seminar how hard it is to be a refugee and a disabled person and that they need to work hard to help each other, as they had asked in a letter for help to improve their association, and to help them to support their restaurant and tea shop as well as a support for

their disability they were given 12,000 (twelve thousand) Birr for assistance. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

On 12/10/2019 we were still in Mai Aini, today until half day we provided eye treatment. In the afternoon we will travel to Adi Harish.

As usual we continued with seminars of the other associations. Associations of youth Eritrean refugees Mai Aini was another new association for aid from ERDA. It was a good meeting with great participation and discussed issues like how ERDA should use this opportunity to organize the youth so that they can engage in sports and that they would not fall into bad habits, the role of Eritrean youth and the challenges faced by them and solutions. We gave them sport shorts and t-shirts, soccer and volley balls with the pumps that we brought for them. Also to develop the federation we gave them 25,000 (twenty five thousand) Birr. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

After successful seminar with the youth, we met with association of Biruh Tesfa (for people living with HIV/AIDS) refugees Mai Aini. We gave them advice and motivation and also to support their restaurant and tea and coffee shop we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr in aid. They said that since to resist the virus they need a balanced diet they kindly asked for the aid to increase if possible. But they thanked all the help they got from ERDA and that they will improve their association with the help they get. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

The diabetic patients used to have an association in the past years and ERDA used to give them monetary help and blood measuring machine; however unfortunately this year their association was dissolved therefore we only gave out blood measuring machine for individuals.

Finally to visit Mai Aini kindergarden we went with the left over notebooks, pencils, sharpener, and eraser from Kini and gave the children. We were touched by the songs from the innocent children when they welcomed us. The visit ended with another song and we want to point out that ERDA has to think of these children who are the hopes of our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, seekers of justice and peace, before we head out to Adi Harish, we had to send a copy of document of the number of eye patients that were seen in Mai Aini to ARRA & UNIICR. The number of patients seen were 382 (three hundred eighty two); and 305 (three hundred and five) received eye glasses; but 45 (forty five) did not get the right fit so they were given referrals.

On Saturday afternoon on 12/10/2019, according to our plan we went to Adi Harish, a lot of people in various associations needing help with eye treatment were waiting for us. While the treatment set up was underway, we held a seminar and told the people to be patient and be in line. We also told them that since we also have to go to Hisas and Shimelba our resources are not enough for everyone and that we can only serve those who are in sever condition and need emergency treatment. The eye treatment started. However due to the hot weather and big crowds of people the condition was not suitable.

Side by side with the big program, we started with the various people's association that were waiting for us. First we had a seminar for the elders association. We can understand how hard it is to be a refugee and an elderly; therefore ERDA reminded them that they have to help each other and accept the situation as there is no other alternative; and that they have to develop their association and to be role model for the younger generation and lead them. They thanked members and supporters of ERDA all over the world for all the assistance are receiving and have received. Then they were given 12,000 birr (twelve thousand) for developing their association as they have requested in a letter and was decided by the committee. They submitted a gratitude that was signed by their representatives.

Next in the program was Adi Harish women's association, which has demonstrated to be one of the biggest women's associations abroad. There were a lot of people in the hall and since it was a good opportunity to pass along the message of ERDA, so we discussed about how the lack of unity and love among us that caused the influx of refugees. The seminar contained a lot of give and take and encouraged participants to work hard and disregard this old disease, and unite. The seminar ended with joy, slogans, applauses and questions and suggestions and recommendations. To support the hair salon and mills businesses of their association they were given 15,000 (fifteen thousand) Birr in front of the peoples' representatives and members; as they have requested and was decided by the committee. They submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen by continuing our program we met with association of Niburnet mes halafinet (for people living with HIV/AIDS), we have been holding meetings with our brothers and sisters. We discussed that they need sanitation and food for the disease. Although we have not helped them as much as it was needed we were helping them according to the capacity of our organization. To develop the soft drinks distribution center and billiard playing spot, we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr as they had asked in a letter, in front of their members. They thanked all the members and supporter of ERDA for the help they sent. They then submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

This holy mission continues on the weekends as well. On Sunday 13/10/2019 while the eye treatment was going on the seminars continued as well. So we met with Biruh Tesfa association Adi Harish (for mental health patients). It was shocking to see and hard to believe how a lot of people of both genders were suffering with mental illness and our people are in danger. Most of them were younger than 35. The meeting went well; we gave them encouragement, moral and hope in a way they could understand us. As we had informed in 2018, we had given 50,000 (fifty thousand) Birr for their administrators. However, because the former ARRA administrators could not provide a location, the project was not done. Fortunately the money was safely kept in the bank; by discussing with the new administration of the association and ARRA; we added additional 20,000 (twenty thousand) Birr for them so that they can be given a location and to use the total 70,000 (seventy thousand) Birr to do something useful with it. We gave them the aid in front of representatives and they submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their administrators.

We continued our program and met with association of disabled Eritrean refugees of Adi Harish in their hall. We had a big seminar and discussions. Since the main thing for an association is to be self-reliant,

they had opened various businesses and during religious holidays of Muslims and Christians they organize all their members together for years. Starting with the yearly help they get from ERDA they hired people to construct the businesses like barbershop, shop, cold drink distributions etc. According to their request in a letter, they were given 13,000 (thirteen thousand) Birr for developing their association. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, the eye specialist will finish with Adi Harish today and tomorrow (Monday) they will return to their work, so their one day and a half results of the work done was: total patients were 582 (five hundred eighty two) and 265 (two hundred sixty five) received eye glasses, and 38 were given appointments. When this was estimated by the professionals, the cost would amount to about 2500 (two thousand five hundred) for one patient.

Monday 14/10/2019 to meet with the remaining associations, we met with associations of youth Eritrean refugees Adi Harish at the assigned hall. In short time the hall was full of the youth. After great discussion, the youth were given an opportunity to share their problems as well as their goals. They encouraged their mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters in the diaspora to pay more attention to them. They gave heartfelt thanks to ERDA for all the help they provided. . We gave them sport shorts and t-shirts, soccer and volley balls with the pumps that we brought for them. Also to develop the federation we gave them 25,000 (twenty five thousand) Birr in front of members and representatives. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Next, we met with the association of diabetic patients of Adi Harish. Diabetics is a very dangerous disease, since it has no pain, it is considered a silent killer. We explained to them that if one is careful the disease can be controlled. Then, we gave them the glucose measuring machine we brought from them. To support their association's restaurant and coffee shop we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr in aid. The members were from both genders. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives. They also thanked members of ERDA for all the help and support it has been providing them and is still providing; and recommended for the help to continue.

After finishing all our programs successfully, there was a big heartwarming lunch program at Adi Harish organized by all the associations and ARRA management. They also gave recognition certificate and 9 framed gifts for ERDA. At the ceremony, representatives of all the associations and peoples' representatives and ARRA's representatives were present. Although the program was organized by all the associations and representatives, the main role played by Adi Harish association of refugees with disability was duly noted.

Tuesday 15/10/2019 we returned to Shire. We spent the day by giving a copy of the documentation of the successful work we did in Mai Aini and Adi Harish to ARRA's office. We gave reports on the work done and discussed what improvements could be done. We also planned priorities for the upcoming Hisas and Shimelba program.

Wednesday 16/10/2019 we started heading to Hisas from Shire early morning. We safely arrived at 8 am. Before we start our program we met with ARRA's representative and representatives of the people and

discussed about our goals in detail and asked for the recipients to be arranged for us, so that there will not be too much crowd and disturbance. The meeting was full of wisdom and understanding.

Ladies and gentlemen, the first groups waiting for us were the association of people with disability and association of the elderly. The hall was full and the hot weather added to that, it was a bit challenging. These two groups of people are very vulnerable. Being a refugee with disability and being elder refugee makes the refugee life much harder so there is a need for more encouragement and support among each other. Then they were given a chance to share about the problems they face, questions, recommendations, and what kind of help they need in the future. They gave thanks to the help they received so far, but also recommended for ERDA to take into account their challenges of disability and old age; and to increase the help they provide. Next, according to the request of help they made in a letter, we gave 15,000 (fifteen thousand) Birr for the association of the elderly, and 13,000 (thirteen thousand) Birr for the association for refugees with disability to develop their associations. They then submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

By continuing our program we met with Hisas's women association. The association was developed beyond our expectation and they are well organized and defend their rights themselves. The hall was full and it was nice to see some of them were standing outside despite the heat to attend the seminar. It can be said that women association of Hisas, have reached to the level of development of Mai Aini and Adi Harish. The seminar was long and important; and the main topic was about how the unified organization of women was the needed for our victory. Therefore, we told them that ERDA would be on the side of their association. Then meeting ended with questions, suggestions and recommendations. To develop their association they were given 20,000 (twenty thousand) Birr as they have requested in a letter. They submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

As described above, from sunrise to sunset we were doing seminar after seminar because we had to use every minute in the limited days we had. Now, we are at the hall with the association of the youth. At the scheduled time, the hall was full of the youth. After a welcome opening message, then the stage was open for ERDA. We used the opportunity and transmitted the message we wanted to convey to the youth. We conveyed to them about the role of the youth in a society and a country as they are the receivers of covenant and can bring about a change. And to defeat all the suffering that made such opportunities impossible, all the youth inside and abroad should organize by stating that the refugee influx is enough, and save their people and country. The youth should not be influenced by the backward considerations. Then the stage was open for the participants for suggestions, questions and recommendations and the meeting ended on a good note and sense of unity and slogans. To develop their association's sport program, we gave them sport shorts and t-shirts, soccer and volley balls with the pumps, t-shirts and shorts, as they had requested in a letter. In addition we gave them 15,000 (fifteen thousand) Birr and they submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

On Thursday 17/10/2019 we met with the association of diabetic patients of Hisas camp early morning and discussed about the challenges they face. They shared how there is a shortage of glucose measuring machine, that the food they were getting was not suited for the disease, and how their livelihood was hard. We in turn explained to them that diabetes requires special diet and sanitation and that they should avoid

stress. That would serve as the main medicine for the disease which is a silent killer. To support their association's tea and coffee shop we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr in aid as they had requested in a letter. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

By continuing our program we met with the Hisas association Sinit (for people living with HIV/AIDS), and had an open discussion in the meeting. We gave them encouragement to raise awareness and teach people who have wrong beliefs of the disease is transmitted through air, breathing or by simple greeting contacts. And that the disease should not discriminate them from the society. The participants gave heartfelt thanks for all the advices and encouragements they got, as well as all the help they had received so far. To help develop the soft drinks distribution center we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr as they had asked in a letter. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

At the association of the youth, some youth who have special artistic abilities and who were members of Hisas camp's artists association described in tears how they have problems with musical instruments. Therefore, in accordance with the limited budget, they were given 5,000 (five thousand) Birr to purchase musical instruments. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, I remember that in 2018 I had shared with you about one family in various meetings. It was about a woman in Hisas camp who had received a wheelchair and on the 2018 film that was distributed she had told as about her life history freely.

Her name is Fertuna Yehdego Haftay and she is a mother of 4, and her husband's name is Yonas Efreem Birhane. Fertuna was naturally born without both of her lower feet below the knee; and she has only three fingers on her right hand. It's understandable that the brave Yonas who had accepted her disability and married her would face some challenges. As ERDA is an organization of the people looked at this special circumstance and gave them an aid for 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr. ERDA had found an Ethiopian, for a help to raise children with an aid of 1,000 (one thousand) Birr a month, starting from September. We had already sent them for September and October. Let's rise up to do good, so that our problems would be eliminated!!

Friday 18/10/2019, we left Shire early morning with the eye specialists. The professionals took Friday's off from their government job and added Saturday and Sunday to do the work. We arrived on time and a lot of people were waiting for us. While the medical treatment section is being set up, we gave small presentation about the services that were about to be performed. Since we will provide treatment for a day and a half in Hisas, and a day and a half would be in Shimelba, we told them that we had to use our time properly. The registration started and then the doctors started working.

The large number of participants coupled with the hot weather made the circumstances hard. When you look at it in their shoes, it looks like the circumstances require real patience.

Saturday 19/10/2019 we head up to Hisas from Shire. We quickly started providing treatments to the people who were waiting for us. Since we were going to work in Hisas until midday, we decided to stop registration and serve those who were already registered and in line; and we did serve them. In that day and a half of hard work in Hisas camp, 467 (four hundred sixty seven) people were treated; and from them 238 (two hundred thirty eight) were given eye glasses, and 39 (thirty nine) of them were referred for a special medical care.

Side by side, we went to Hisas kindergarten. We gave them notebooks, pencils, sharpener, pen and eraser. During the visit a large number of children welcomed us with songs and applause. ERDA has to think of programs tailored to these children who are the hopes of our country.

Saturday 19/10/2019 at midday, we head out to Shimelba. Shimelba was the first Eritrean refugee camp and it comprises of three ethnic groups who live together in harmony. Since they were informed in advance they were waiting for us. The distance from Hisas to Shimelba is 60 k.m. We arrived on time at the medical center and people were waiting for us. We started working at the place we worked at in 2018. The special situation with Shimelba is that there are many Kunama people so we had to use interpreters which led to taking more time.

We prepared treatment plan, and we first we met with representatives of the people and ARRA representatives and agreed about setting priorities of the programs we set out to do and how we can implement them.

Next we stated doing public seminars to give out the help we brought. We had a big meeting with Shimelba's associations of the youth. As usual, the role of the youth was raised and after a lot of discussion; and then we moved to suggestions, questions and recommendations and we gave them answers. As we have given the other camps, we gave them sport shorts and t-shirts, soccer and volley balls with the pumps. Moreover, as they had requested in a letter, to develop their sport federation we gave them 10,000 (ten thousand) Birr. They then submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Sunday 20/10/2019 we head out from Shire and got to Shimelba early morning. The people had already lined up and waiting to get treatment and we started working right away. While the doctors were doing their job, we continued to do our job and met in a big hall with five associations- i.e. associations for women, the disabled, the elderly, Wintana (for HIV AIDS), diabetic patients- who are organized by their representatives. The seminar was officially opened by ARRA's representatives. After presenting a short history of ERDA, the stage was opened for ERDA's representative who discussed about the situation of our people living a hard life as a refugee and the never ending influx was mainly due to our lack of internal unity; and that especially in these life of refuge, we had to ascertain our unity so that enemies would not compromise us. After that questions and recommendations followed and they gave thanks to all the members and supporters of ERDA all over the world for all the help did so far, and the seminar ended after that.

For the association of Shimelba's people with mental illness, we gave them 15,000 (fifteen thousand) Birr, as they had requested, to take care of the patients. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

For the women's association, to develop their businesses they were given 11,000 (eleven thousand) Birr as they had requested in a letter. They then submitted a document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

For the associations of the disabled and of the elderly, who as a unified association requested in a letter for a help to develop their businesses, they were given 11,000 (eleven thousand) Birr as aid. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

For the association of Wintana (for HIV AIDS) and the association of diabetic patients, we had a meeting for them as a unified association. After discussing how the disease needs careful diet and sanitation, even if it is not a lot we gave them 11,000 (eleven thousand) Birr to develop their businesses as they had requested in a letter. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, members and supporters of ERDA; the same way we had been working in the other camps, we had our last and final successful public service in Shimelba and we provided eye treatments to 374 (three hundred seventy four) people; and 129 (one hundred and twenty nine) people received eye glasses; and 33 (thirty three) were referred for a special medical care.

For Selam band association of artists of Shemelba who provide entertainment for the refugees and had not received aid before, were given 5000 (five thousand) Birr for purchasing musical instruments, as they had requested in a letter. They then submitted a gratitude document that proved their receipt and was signed by their representatives.

At the end of that successful trip, we visited Shemelba kindergarten. We gave out notebooks, pencils, erasers, sharpeners. In addition, we gave out hand watches to five prize winner children; from them, 2 were from the Kunama ethnic group, 2 from Tigrinya ethnic group and, 1 was from Saho ethnic group. The children were very happy and encouraged.

Ladies and gentlemen, seekers of peace and justice all over the world in general, and members and supporters of ERDA in particular, because of your unrelenting support and care you provided and the resources you gave to ERDA, which is the people's organization, we were able to visit and help our suffering people. Since it was a success because of you, we would like to thank you in on our behalf and on behalf of the refugees we helped. However, the aid provided is a good start but it is just a drop in the ocean and is not compatible to the increase of refugees. Therefore, your organization ERDA is again pleading to you to continue your support, and try to donate one dollar, one Euro, or one pound a day.

On behalf of members and supporters of Eritrean refugees, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Ethiopia in general and ARRA (Agency for Refugee & Returnee Affairs)

in particular – who were by our side from the start to finish and provided all types of assistance including transportation etc. We kindly plead with you to continue your support, until our problems are resolved.

ERDA Bank Accounts in Deutschland:
Eritrean Relief & amp; Developement
Association e.V. Postfach 2306
76011 Karlsruhe Deutschland
Bank Sparkasse Karlsruhe Ettlingen
IBAN DE08 6605 0101 0108 1032 27
SWIFT BIC KARSDEXXX

ERDA USA

Bank of Amerika
Account number # 138126271630

Routing # 125000024

ERDA Swedin

Plus giro konto

SE83 9500 0099 60260 1148287

ERDA Ethiopia KASANCHI BRANCH

BANK COMERCIAL BANK

ACCOUNT NUMBER. 1000050777794

ADDISS ABABA

Sincerely,

Eritrean Relief and Development Association (ERDA) administrators

Kahsay Ehdego

Project Officer