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جمعية الإغاثة والتنمية الإرترية

Eritrean Relief and Development Association

To Whom It May Concern!!

### **New Project 2020 of Eritrean Relief & Development Association (ERDA)!!!**

Dear members, friends and supporters of the Eritrean Relief and Development Association (ERDA) all over the world:

First and foremost, I would like to pass the message I have got to you from the beneficiaries - our brothers and sisters in the Refugee camps in Ethiopia.

They said:

“wherever you are in your exile life, we wish you good health and peaceful life. We would also like to extend our heartfelt brotherly and greetings and gratitude from all of us - Eritreans in the Refugee camps in Ethiopia through your organisation (the people’s organisation) ERDA, for all that you have helped us.”

Brothers and sisters, as Committee members of the Association, we feel highly honoured to pass to you their appreciation and gratitude about the work we have accomplished. Without your kind and dedicated work, we would not have fulfilled these achievements.

Furthermore, when ERDA took the initiative as all of us know and clearly understand, it had no starting capital or any resources except **its noble mission, simple and clear instructions, and dedicated motives of us** to serve the displaced and most vulnerable members of the Eritrean people in the Refugee Camps in Ethiopia. We carried out our activities under clear slogan which says: **‘from the people, by the people, to the people’!** We still use this popular slogan.

When we undertook our initiative, there were many necessarily sensitive issues to address. Under such circumstances, we appreciate the approaches and efforts, ERDA followed to deal with many possible internal and external challenges it has faced, and the flexible procedures it employed to overcome them which have proved success.

As we anticipated, we experienced many and huge internal and external challenges which seemed very difficult to overcome. Which required immense patience and understanding from our side to deal with unfavourable situations. And because of

the careful approaches and dedication of our committed members, and the encouragement, support we received from justice-seeking and peace-loving Eritreans and foreigner friends, we overcome those challenges.

And given the circumstance and space, we successfully managed to be able to put our stamp in helping our brothers and sisters in the refugee camps in Ethiopia, and in the vicinity villages of Eritrea, in Knn and Qnito in particular. So, taking a role in difficult times, side by side with the International organisations, we managed to successfully give support to our people.

Because of your dedication and participation, we have come to challenge and overcome all obstacles that seemed impossible to face. Ultimately, we managed to reach and connect with our oppressed and displaced people in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. We have been distributing and we still do distribute every penny raised and any material donated, big or small, to the true beneficiaries. We always keep records and reliable documents of our project works, and we follow a policy of full transparency of activities through mass media, written documents, mobile videos, and slide shows to our members, friends and donors/subscribers all over the world.

**We are now able to run temporary relief activities as well as long term projects** in the Refugee camps in Ethiopia and in some Eritrean villages adjacent to the border of Ethiopia.

Dear justice-seeking supporters, as we strictly have been following the clear work guidelines of our organisation, ERDA, we always have been able to fulfil our tasks year after year effectively. However small the donated money or material resource have been, we were always keeping records and we still do, of what has been distributed and the purpose and priorities. These have effectively helped us to build and gain trust and confidence among ourselves as members, and with our friends and supporters and donors. So far, we managed to keep the transparency of our activities by making them public through mass media, written materials, mobile videos, and slide shows to our members, friends and donors/subscribers all over the world.

As the saying “openness/transparency builds trust; and trust enhances development’ goes, it was because since the end of 2004 right from the beginning we started with complete openness and transparency, we managed to build trust among ourselves, that gave us clear light to see the road to development.

Having clear mission and objectives, this openness and trust is the main reason that we were able to move from zero financial resources to a public level, from providing relief assistances to organising long term self-subsistence development projects –

organising containers full of medical stuff and beds, different items relevant to the refugees in the various camps that was shipped from Germany.

We dug water wells that provide pure potable water, built elementary schools to help the local people and their children in Knn and Qnito (Eritrean villages adjacent to the border of Ethiopia). During our annual tour we provided different services coordinated in which groups like 'Star For A Star dedicated Humanitarian Doctors organisations participated and gave dental, and some light cervical operation services, distributing eye glasses by hiring eye specialities, distributed diabetes machines that included a year's supply of 'Test strips, walking sticks, wheelchairs, cloths, shoes, sport equipment, pens and exercise books for school children, and women diapers and under wears donated from our Eritrean sisters group called 'ADE CARE' in New York (USA). Additionally, we supplied sanitation materials like soaps and washing powders, and some money to some small business establishments to help them cover their running costs.

Further decisive factors that have greatly helped to the success of ERDA to accomplish these achievements include media contributions of: Paltalk Simer Room # 1, Radio Assena, Radio WogaHta, Radio Mestiyat Bietna, Radio DimTsi Eritrea Canada, Natsa Redio Stuttgartn Kebabian etc. And I proudly extend my personal thanks to their management teams for their services.

I also would like to highlight on the services provided, and the cooperation we received from ARRA and UNHCR. They have been giving us an unreserved encouragement and support to come to help our displaced people right from the beginning of our initiative until now. Their support has been highly significant in carrying out our activities which includes giving safety and protection, helping us with transport services for our activities, and opening access to our people in the refugee camps in which we were able to share information and gain knowledge about our people's needs, distress and miserable lives. We benefitted and gained invaluable experience from their organisational works.

... At this critical juncture to manage our annual organisational tasks/ duties and obligations, on behalf of ERDA, I would like to emphasise to ourselves and friends how important it is to have a clear project plan in place. This project plan would be a framework of our tasks for the year including setting out an estimation of an annual budget. As such, we had to outline our fund-raising programme which primarily depends on our people. And this simply means that the justice-seeking Eritreans need to stand up for our people and take responsibilities in solving the current and immediate problems.

Side by side, in the name of our oppressed people (as we already have been doing), we have to seek moral and material supports from governmental and non-

governmental humanitarian organisations as well as individuals who stand for human rights worldwide, regardless of race, religion, and colour.

Although we will be better informed in the near future regarding the 'Mabel School' and services in the vicinity of the villages of Qinin and Kinito, we have included supports such as eye treatment, school materials, and uniforms to the staff of the school in our projection of our Project Plan of 2020.

Our services in Selam School and satelayt School in the villages of knn and Qnito will be dictated by the impact the new social circumstances might create on our overall activities. However, we still maintain our commitment to the school and related activities in that area.

It is obvious that ERDA started its activities from the refugee camps. So far it has been more or less indiscriminately making all the activities it has accomplished public to every Justice-seeking person in general, and to its members, friends and supporters in particular by distributing its work reports every year by leaflets, radios photos and sharing work developments on Social Medias as appropriate.

ERDA is a free humanitarian organisation established to serve all Eritrean refugees equally without any discrimination of race, religion, region, awrajawi or political affiliation.

Under these principles and commitment, ERDA runs seminars, social community discussions which are more relevant than the immediate relief support it provides, or provided by other Humanitarian organisations in public and with those in the refugee camps to raise awareness regarding the underlying issues and problems to the causes of our plight as people. The focus of its seminars mainly included on the meaning of being a refugee, consolidating common efforts and resources to challenge social evils, ways and means to make their life in the camps safer, and to look on to sustainable solutions.

Although there is still colossal work to do, with the help of our and other organisations, they have now managed at least: to get organised as refugees in the form of social and self-help groups, to engage in dialogue to resolve differences and misunderstandings among themselves as they arise to maintain their social cohesion and safety. They are also in a position of governing themselves by electing their management committees; and sharing their problems with their Eritrean brothers and sisters in diaspora in a united voice through their representatives. They are now able to ask support organised; and communicate with their supporters officially. And as young Eritreans to get actively involved in activities that bring shared solutions.

Dear brothers and sisters, to help our oppressed Eritreans who live in the refugee camps, it is beyond question that money is a prime factor. Consequently, as stated

above, in addition to the relief supports we have been providing, we also have been helping for a number of years and still continue to help such self-help groups with small cash to encourage them in their efforts of setting up small self-reliance businesses, organised in categories such as; people with disabilities, old age, gender and other social or health factors. As we, ERDA, have witnessed regardless of all the objective and subjective odds they face, many of the organisations have managed to achieve remarkable progresses.

ERDA succeeded to reach Eritreans and friends widely beyond its membership rank and has increased its support from year to year. It has managed to make this achievement, because of its noble slogan which says: from 'from the people, by the people, to the people'!

In 2019 ERDA managed to reach beyond its members to many justice – seeking Eritreans worldwide who share interest and responsibilities for their people and country, and to non-Eritrean friends and supporters. And relative to previous outcomes, it raised much higher funds and support. Because of shortage of resources until recently, our activities have been limited to the two camps - Mai Aini, Adi Harish. However, in 2019 because of the generous donations and supports we received from our friends and supporters, Eritrean refugees in all 4 Camps became equal beneficiaries of our charity work. We were also able to extend our support to students and families in Knn.

We have sent a performance report of our successful organisation work of 2019 in detail to all concerned. This report will be translated in three languages – Tigringa, Arabic and English; and will be distributed to the public soon. Moreover, we would like to announce (ከነበረዎቹ ገደብ) to those who have played their roles to make the successful organisational works of ERDA to its people real, that the report has been video recorded and will be channelled through YouTube to the public soon.

The situations in the Refugee Camps is getting worse; the number is unbelievably increasing, and it is shocking to witness such horrible development. This time the health and livelihood of the refugees especially of children and women is worse. Nevertheless, we put greater hope in the works of ERDA and other Humanitarian organisations. Next to God, having placed full trust in you that you play your generous role voluntarily and with national responsibilities as before (considering previous plans), but this time we have more ambitious Project Plan 2020 ready; and the cost minimum estimated at **\$.64,650\$** (sixty four thousands and six hundred and fifty US Dollars).

As Committee members of ERDA we feel honoured working with all of you, and as you may well respect and share our concern, we are still far from satisfied with the

marvellous tasks we have already accomplished. Because the responsibilities at stake in helping our Eritrean refugees in the Camps; and as people who still have a long journey to go until we realize our human dignity in which we have no choice apart from working harder than ever!

It then goes on, brothers and sisters, without any doubt that we have come back to you with more ambitious new Project Proposal for the promising year 2020. Here, we are confidently appealing to you to doubly reinforce our commitments and responsibilities for our people. And we happily present the summary of it, drafted and proposed by the Executives of the Branches and members of the Management Board of ERDA as follows:

**1) Mental Health Patients**, in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: There is an incredible amount of voluntary services in the Camps. Nevertheless, in addition to the volunteer Eritrean brothers and sisters, we need to pay small salary to those who serve on a shift basis of Eight- Hours a day as assistant workers; and cover costs for their care, cleaning and recreation facilities. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **4,000 US\$**.

**2) Diabetes Patients**, in the Eritrean refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Hinsas and Shimelba: need blood sugar test devices, Test strips, continuous encouragement for their Self-help small businesses. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **3,200 US\$**.

**3) Special Care Services to members of Eritrean Refugee Association, and aged persons** in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: they need our support to help cover with the costs of their self-help small business activities and for special health care needs. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **4,500 US\$**.

**4) HIV Patients**, in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: these kinds of groups need our support to help cover with the costs of their self-help small business establishments and for special health care needs, as well as for food and sanitation. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **2,950 US\$**.

**5) Women Association**, in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: they need our support to help cover with the costs of their self-help small business foundations and for the health care activities they offer to vulnerable elements of their gender group. They also need help that would encourage them with their organisational developments and activities which has been showing fast changes and progress. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **5,000 US\$**.

**6) The Association of Refugees with disabilities**, in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: they need our financial support to help cover with the costs of their self-help small business establishments and for health care costs to their vulnerable members. The rough estimation of costs for the four camps is **3,000 US\$**.

**7) Youth Association of Eritrean Refugees**, in the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Mai Aini, Adi Harish, Htsats and Shimelba: it is the biggest project; and during our visit in 2019 we witnessed that they were in a very vulnerable position, and the trend looked even worse. They need our support encouraging them to engage in different sports' activities; and covering the costs of sports' equipment and facilities. The rough estimation of costs of sports' equipment for the four camps is **5,000 US\$**.

**8) Students from Knn and Qnito who are Crossing the border to Maebel school** need uniforms, school materials, eye treatments, etc. The rough estimation of costs of school equipment for the four camps is **3,000 US\$**.

**9) Technical vocational training (Carpentry, Welding)**, to help our young Eritrean Refugees who lack such professional trainings and skills. In order to open such training Centre in all four of the Camps and run this Project, we need to raise huge fund. To start with, we need to buy 4 big Generators and Workshop setting up floorboards of timber and steel pieces, joinery and other essential power tools and materials including other smaller machines and tools. This kind of project has been long-awaited plan of ERDA but remained unaccomplished due to shortage of fund and resources.

Dear members, friends and supporters of ERDA, our prime opportunity to help the young Eritrean Refugees who have been languishing in the Camps without any jobs or skills has now come. These kinds of trainings will be decisive journeys in their professional and personal developments. And the minimum rough estimation of costs of this project for the four camps is **30,000 US\$**.

**10) A Reserve Fund for Urgent and unforeseen Situations**, ... The rough estimation for the four camps is **4,000 US\$**.

At this time, if there is anything of national significance worth informing our people would be about the huge flow of Eritrean refugees, mainly underage children to Ethiopia leaving their country behind since the opening of the border has been declared in 2018. This huge flow of Refugees, never seen before, is a big concern to ERDA. Thus, we would repeatedly like to extend our call to the broad Justice – seeking Eritrean people, who is the stake holder of the safety of his nation and life, to do everything possible to avert the distressing situation.

Dear Eritrean nationals in general, and members, friends and supporters who persistently have been struggling for justice, democracy and Human Rights for years and years to effect democratic changes in Eritrea in particular. Please allow me to outspread my call in the name of the Eritrean refugees in the Camps, in the name of the Management committee, and in the name of members and friends of ERDA which is the Eritrean People's Humanitarian organisation, that you double your commitment and support; be part of it; and take active role in the relief and development works of the different project activities we have outlined; to alleviate the Eritrean Refugees from their unjustified problems and predicaments that they are being through.

As of the long run strategy of ERDA points out, our message clearly focuses on the justice-seeking broader masses of the Eritrean people who is the main stake holder of hope of its future.

And we confidently believe, together, we will fully arm ourselves to stand against the odds and challenges that our displaced people, and what as people we face.

In summary we high light our call that we keep our struggle until all the problems we mentioned in the project proposals and their root causes are completely resolved; and our human dignity gets realised.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen This are the Official Account Numbers of ERDA!!!

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

**Eritrean Relief and Development Association (ERDA)!!**

Kahsay Ehdego!!

Project Officer/