

## Project proposal: to improve the quality and efficiency of basic education in the Awbare and Shinile districts of the Somali region of Ethiopia

### Background information

#### The Somali State: An overview

The Somali region is one of nine divisions of Ethiopia, bordering Kenya to the south-west and Somalia to the north, east and south. Each of the nine states has its own government and democracy, and is subdivided into zones and woredas (districts).



In 2007, the region had an estimated population of 4,439,147 consisting of 2,468,784 men and 1,970,363 women. Across the division, 665,397 households were counted, resulting in an average of 6.6 persons to a household.

A high sex ratio of 120 males to 100 females has been reported in the region, and likewise a higher proportion of male adult literacy

Figures show that 22% of Somali men have been educated meanwhile just 9.8% of women have received tuition.

### The two woredas

Awbare constitutes one of the woredas of Jijiga zone, and stretches to approximately 38,786 km<sup>2</sup>. The woreda has an estimated population of 292,538 people, nearly 18% of which are made up of school age children (7-14 years). There are currently 25 formal primary and secondary schools and 96 Alternative Basic Education Centres (ABECs) in Awbare.

Shinile woreda has an estimated land size of 11,780 km<sup>2</sup>, with a total population of approximately 111,147 people, of which school age children are thought to comprise 21% of the population. There are 7 primary schools, 22 ABECs and just 1 secondary school in the woreda.

## Save the Children in the two woredas

Save the Children UK is currently working alongside the Woreda Education Offices in Awbare and Shinile with the purpose of linking 8 ABECs with two relatively better performing formal schools to form clusters. Teachers from the ABECs can therefore use the Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) to learn new skills and develop teaching and learning materials. Save the Children UK is committed to continue its work with the Government-established ABECs, by developing the cluster system and ensuring that the quality of education is being addressed in the two woredas.

In addition to this, we aim to increase enrolment and completion rates of boys and girls in the Awbare and Shinile districts by significantly improving standards of teaching in all education centres.



This is a typical lesson. Most teachers lack sufficient training and teaching experience. On top of this, there is a shortage of teaching equipment and basic furniture in the majority of schools. These children sit on stones as they don't have any chairs or desks.

## Education in Awbare and Shinile

Almost the entire teaching staff at the ABECs are under-qualified and inexperienced, many with less than 5 years of teaching service. By introducing the project in Ethiopia, we at Save the Children UK can provide support for teachers such as training, experience sharing and supervision.

## How will the project work?

The CRC project focuses on 16 ABECs and the 4 schools where Cluster Resource Centres have been established. An experienced teacher from the formal school is assigned to manage the CRC, and this system enables them to provide close coaching and regular training for the poorly resourced ABEC teachers. By introducing the project, we intend to improve the standard of teaching for more than 4,800 children in the region.



Fihlima writes her name during class. One of Save the Children's objectives is to provide students like Fihlima with better learning equipment and facilities. With your help, we can supply schools with blackboards and textbooks to enhance learning.

## Classroom Conditions

The classroom environment of most of the visited ABECs is so poor that important facilities such as desks, doors and windows, ventilation and fencing around the sites are not even in place. In addition to this, there is a shortage of classrooms and office space, and therefore no place to store records of students or staff.



This is Farmsa's classroom. As they don't have any furniture, children must sit on these yellow plastic cans or on stones during their lessons. Too many schools like this are in need of basic classroom furniture such as desks, chairs and shelves.

Rehabilitation is vital in these schools, and the necessary requirements are outlined below:

- 13 schools in need of full rehabilitation of more than 30 classrooms
- 4 in need of minor rehabilitation work on doors and windows
- 3 have no classrooms at all therefore need help creating suitable teaching spaces
- A total of 324 desks required, as well as chairs, tables and shelves to establish standard libraries
- 40 small sized blackboards needed for ABECs and 10 large sized blackboards for formal schools
- 8 schools in need of rehabilitation work to water points and 12 without any water point structure at all



A lot of schools are in need of major rehabilitation. This picture shows one of the unfinished classrooms in Somali. At the moment, part of the building has no roof but with our help students will be able to benefit from safer, improved classroom conditions.

### How your school will help change children's lives

Your school will be contributing to Save the Children's Cluster Resource Centre Project. This project will provide a better quality of teaching for both staff and students and will significantly improve the teaching and learning environment with regard to equipment, facilities and general sanitation.



Here is one of a small number of water points. We at Save the Children UK aim to install and restore water points in schools in order to improve general hygiene and sanitation.

### Your contribution will help

- 20 schools provide adequate training to their teaching staff
- around 4,800 children to receive better education in professional teaching environments
- improve standards of classrooms and teaching equipment such as desks, chairs and books (textbook ratio expected to be reduced from 38:1 to 2:1)
- improve hygiene and sanitation in schools by installing ventilation, lighting and water points
- increase the number of boys and girls enrolling at primary and secondary schools
- reduce student drop out rates from 12% to 8%

Your school will be contributing to the project along with other participating schools around the country.

## How is this sustainable?

Local community partners and education authorities are involved in the planning and implementation of all Save the Children activities, thereby ensuring the sustainability beyond the project's duration.

Our work in the Somali region will also be regularly monitored, with the involvement of local authorities, to ensure that the activities are having the greatest possible impact. We make sure that the views of children and young people, as well as those of other stake-holders, are included in our monitoring process.

## Our commitment to you

- We promise that the money you donate will be spent on the project outlined above
- We will provide bespoke information on the progression of the project, as outlined below:

## Project Feedback

**Autumn Term:** In conjunction with this proposal, your school will receive a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the problems and outlining the project objectives to aid in your communication of the project to the wider school community. You will also receive our Fundraising Enterprise pack to support you in your fundraising.

**Spring Term:** Your school will receive an up-to-date project report detailing the progress of the project in the two woredas of Awbare and Shinile. The report will include specific case studies/stories and photographs relating to the rehabilitation of classrooms and describe how this is affecting education in the region.

**Summer Term:** Your school will receive a talk from Save the Children's network of speakers or will receive a DVD detailing the work carried out.

## Your commitment to us

Due to this detailed level of reporting and feedback, we require that schools who wish to support this vitally needed work raise in excess of £2,000 over the academic year of 09/10.

Please confirm your support by email to [p.grundy@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:p.grundy@savethechildren.org.uk)

Thank you!

## Appendix

### Rewrite the Future

Rewrite the Future is Save the Children's first global campaign in our 90 year history, and is focused on securing quality education for the millions of children not in school as a result of war and armed conflict. We are calling for change for these children, and making a direct difference ourselves by aiming to provide good quality education in conflict-affected countries for 8 million children by 2010.

Specific activities that will take place in the Somali region of Ethiopia are:

- Teachers trained and qualified to teach at both primary and secondary level
- Improved learning environments for children
- Increased enrolment at primary level
- Reduced school drop out rates
- Improved quality of teaching
- Implementation of Cluster Resource Centres

Save the Children UK would like to thank you for your generous support, which is helping us bring quality education to the children who need it most.

Paul Grundy      [p.grundy@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:p.grundy@savethechildren.org.uk)

Save the Children UK  
1 St John's Lane  
London, EC1M 4AR  
Telephone +44 (0)20 7012 6400  
Fax +44 (0)20 7012 6963

[savethechildren.org.uk](http://savethechildren.org.uk)

We're the world's independent children's charity. We're outraged that millions of children are still denied proper healthcare, food, education and protection. We're working flat out to get every child their rights and we're determined to make further, faster changes. How many? How fast? It's up to you.