

## **Summarized report of Bridge of Hope, Morning Star Children's village for the year 2021**



### **Holistic Childcare Approach through Institutional Childcare**

One of the unique features of BoH institutional childcare is its holistic childcare service.

Holistic childcare service is an inclusive childcare approach considering all factors of child growth that may affect the overall development of a child such as intellectual, mental, physical, emotional, and social abilities. As a result, the child will be capable of facing the demands and challenges of the day-to-day life. These abilities are vitally important for success of childcare and development.

Such an approach fulfils the primary, secondary and treasury needs of a child provided by a healthy family. In other words, holistic childcare approach will enable a child to bring up effective and sound human behaviour and that is the mission of Bridge of Hope which is raising children to their fullness.

### **Family Type Childcare Structure under Institutional Childcare**

In this specific case, a family type childcare refers to a type of family structure, through which a holistic childcare and development is addressed.

BoH institutional childcare section consists of well-established fourteen'' woman headed'' families that can be able to accommodate 140 orphan and Highly vulnerable children.

The head woman of the family that we call “mothers” are the nucleus of BoH family type childcare system. On the other hand, BoH woman headed families are playing the greatest role to substitute the lost natural family of our orphan and highly vulnerable children and compensate the lost natural parent–child relationship.



*BoH family type childcare*

BoH success stories, and lessons learned from the last two decades proved that successful physical, mental, psychological, social and spiritual need and development of an orphan and highly vulnerable child which had been achieved through provision of holistic care and support through family type childcare approach.

Currently, ( as of December 31st . 2021) BoH family type childcare centre provides holistic childcare service for 72 orphan and highly vulnerable children ( Male,43 Female, 29 Total, 72) among those, 30 of them are toddlers and infants with the age of five and below ( Male, 19 Female, 11 ). These children needs more attention, intensive maternal care, love, and emotional attachment through family type childcare system.

### ***Children added to the village***

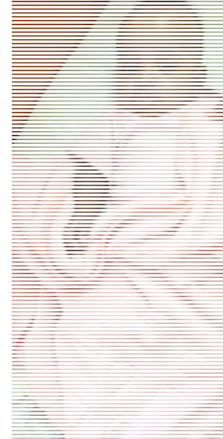
During the year 2021, the children village had been able to receive 22 abandoned, orphaned and highly vulnerable children with the age range of 13 days old to 10 years old. Among these children, five of them could have found an adoptive family and 1 boy got reunified with his biological mother.



***Few comparative pictures of our children, During admission and today.***



***Faris, During admission and today, Feb 12. 2022***



***Zekariyas, During admission and today***

***Sofoniyas, During Admission and today***



***Melkam, During admission and today***

***Netan, During Admission and today***

### ***Families adopted children***

Local adoption for abandoned babies is so prominent because the issue of maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth families is almost denied. In this case, adoption is not only the best option for abandoned children, but also the golden chance given by the law. In other words, through adoption an abandoned babies can regain the legal right to be the sons and daughters of committed, capable and loving family.



### ***Care and Support provided***

#### **Provision of Shelter**

The village has two “U” shaped G + 1 Buildings used for children’s houses. One is used for girl’s residence and the other for boy’s residence. Each Building consists of eight family houses and one common room used for entertainments, computer and library classes. The girls building consists of one extra special house used for physically challenged children.



***Partial view of BoH Children's Village***

### **Construction of main Gate**

Security was one of our fear and concern, especially during the time of those various conflicts among tribes and during the war in Ethiopia.

The location where our children village is situated is one of those locations that are under red category. Therefore, it was a huge fear to all our children, mothers, caregivers, and all staffs that the compound is open to anyone who could attack the village.

One of our US based partner organizations named **world children** funded and covered the total expense of constructing the main gate. Therefore, the village is no longer in fear in this aspect as it is now protected.



*Pictures of main gate*

### **Provision of food and nutrition**

The childcare section officer (sometimes called "the father"), together with family head mothers, kitchen workers and the clinic nurse, are the prior responsible persons to follow the daily provision of balanced diet for all children as well as to check and control the cleanness and free from contamination and best sanitary conditions



of food handlers  
and the kitchen  
area.

## **Provision of Clean Water**

Scarcity of clean water in Gondar City is common problem. Lack of water is very serious problem especially in the area in which BoH is situated.

In order to avoid this problem, our organization had been forced to develop an underground clean water source in the year 2018, however, this underground water source was not fully exploited because of lack of surface water pump.

Hence, in the year 2021, the pump was provided and installed to resolve the scarcity of water. It pumps almost 10,000 liter of water from lower chamber to upper chamber every day. So that 10,000 liter of water transported a distance of 400 meter long and 60 metre elevation to the hill side of the village on where the children village is found.

As a result, in the year 2021, the scarcity of water in the entire children village including Magdalena School had been totally resolved.



*Vertical surface pump*

## **Provision of shoes and Clothing**

All children received clothing and other basic accessories as needed during the year. In addition to that, our tailor has also a huge role in respect to enabling our children could dressed well.



### **Provision of Medical care service**

Bridge of Hope prioritizes prevention service rather than medication treatment. The fact that the village has its own health prevention centre, usually called Village clinic, headed by a nurse helped to achieve the objective.

The nurse is responsible to undertake proper health care activities and gives more attention for prevention, inspection, and medication of all children. In addition to that, it provides an emergency medical service as well.



Around 145 minor cases were examined and treated in BoH clinic level. Among these 45 admitted cases had been referred and treated in Gondar University Referral Hospital, Nure General Hospital, Bahirdar and Addis Ababa Cure Hospital.



*Genetu and Abaynesh, after getting surgical treatment*

### ***Provision of care for Special Need Children (disability) .***

In BoH context, children who are affected by mental and physical disabilities are classified as special need children, including chronic and terminal illnesses, physical impairments, and cognitive or psychiatric issues.

our special needs children have a life-threatening condition or severe learning disabilities. Either way, they are children that requires special attention and care unlike the other children.

Our effort and medical attention that elevating the quality of life for special need children have required result in long-term and escalating costs. The extent of the child's condition may call for far-reaching medical support to allow the child to live and thrive. Among four BoH disabled children three of them (Makbel, Nuhamin and Yohanis) are living with a debilitating life-threatening condition that is permanent and the fact that they require constant medical support throughout the reporting period and may be throughout their life.



*Makbel*



*Yohanis*



*Nuhamin*



*Belaynew*

### ***Provision of Psychosocial Support and Life Skill Training***

Life skill training on effective communication and on the importance of setting vision had been the two main topics that the youth children received trainings. It has been given to those children who has already left the children village and are living with their extended family and those kids who are still living in the children village.



### ***Job Application CV and Interview Training***

One day training was given for 7 graduated children who are seeking for a job. The training focused on the preparation of curriculum vita (CV) and how one will have to get ready for qualified Job interview including preparation of biography for the purpose of introducing oneself for examiners.



### ***Provision of psychiatry and Counselling Service***

The psychiatry and counselling service focused on the widely known Child development areas, such as physical, cognitive, social, spiritual, and emotional developments of children including managing trauma and emergency cases. This service helped many of our children to have stable and peaceful personality.



*BoH Village counsellor on duty*

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Round Reintegration Program***

During the period, 6 girls and 5 Boys had been Re-integrated with their extended families. It is believed that children should leave the children village when they reach the age of 18+. All the 11 children accomplished their high school education and amongst, nine of them could have achieved the required point to join higher universities. Therefore, the children village will continue supporting those children who could successfully joined the higher universities via providing the monthly pocket money and to those who could not get the pass point, through providing vocational and other trainings to enable them to be the owner of different skills and abilities based on their interest.



*8th round reintegrated children*

### ***Provision of quality Education***

Among the 72 children, 29 of them are infants and toddlers. All the remaining children are receiving quality education according to their age. Including covering the tuition fee, all the necessary items, materials and close follow-up is one of the very basic things that we are currently doing.



### ***Provision of pre-schooling service***

One of the other successes achieved this year is that a room with all its facilities had been established for those pre-schoolers.

It is helping them a lot to develop their language skill, creativity, and their communication skill as well.



### ***Provision of Life Skill training***

Life skill training has been provided for 35 of our youths. The training helped the children to know more on how they shall resolve and manage peer pressure and other essential topics.



### ***Bible study and spiritual coaching***

Every child has the freedom to choose on what he/she shall believe and once they are willingly ready to learn, we set a schedule to address all their concerns by teaching the word of God.

A home base bible study, a group prayer with their mothers, Sunday school are few of the activities accomplished in the children village. Volunteers participate to provide teachings and trainings.



## ***Gardening and Harvesting***

Our children enjoyed with taking care of the garden behind every family house. Especially during the rainy season, they had been able to harvest maize so that it had been distributed to each family houses. Different fruit trees, such as Guava, orange, mango, and avocado has also been planted.



*Harvesting maize and picture of fruit trees*

## **Social Development through Socialization and Celebration**

### **Ethiopian New Year Celebration of the year 2014**



As part of the Community Bridge of Hope Childcare Centre usually celebrate the New Year very warmly. The celebration of 2014 (Ethiopian Calendar) with all our children, mothers and staff members was very warm and joyful.



*Ethiopian New year celebration in 2014*

## *Graduated Students in the year 2021*

In the year 2021, we had been successful with our 12 children who could have completed their higher universities and have achieved their first degree in different departments. Achieving this in a country like Ethiopia is something magnificent and We praise and honour our God for it.



*Mekdes Tayito*



*Yordanos Gebeyehu*



*Henok Shifrawu*



*Getasil Birhan*



*BenyamSolomon*



*Asmamawu Tegegn*



*Enanit Andarge*



*Samuel Amsalu*



*Mekonen Melke*



*Atsede Asfawu*



*Samuel Tefera*



*Eyerus Kebede*

## Community Based Childcare Section



Bridge of Hope Gondar Children`s Village works on different childcare options. Among those, community based childcare program is the other vital program activities which is being carried out in partnership with Haddis Team.

There are so many children at all levels who need attention and support in the community that are living in a very critical condition. As a result, the children are highly vulnerable and unable to get enough food, clothing, education, and medical services.

In the year 2021, an additional 20 children had been added to the support which makes the total number of beneficiaries under community-based childcare and support to be 73.

### ***Provision of Breakfast Service for the Community Children***

"Fafa breakfast" before school was recommended to these children by the professionals to alleviate malnutrition problems. It was provided every morning six days a week and 24 days a month for a total 135 children, including our children.



In addition to breakfast service, those kids who are HIV Positive received special support with an additional nutrition such as meat, egg, fruits and vegetable.



## **Food Support for families of sponsored children**

During holydays, it is a challenge for those families who can not afford the necessities let alone an extra expense to celebrate. Therefore, Bridge of Hope provides 1 chicken, 3 liters of edible oil, 10 eggs and 4 Kg onion twice a year, for the new year and Easter celebration.



## **Providing Bread for Poor Community with Minimum Cost**

Bread baking project has been initiated by our partner US based organization, Corvallis Sister Cities Association. The project has been operational starting from March 9, 2021.

It started with the aim to providing bread for 14 needy families for free and to enable those other low-income families enabled to purchase with relatively low price; and with zero profit so that needy people will have the opportunity to buy good quality bread for relatively low price.



### ***Provision of Clothing for Community Children***

Clothing support for 76 community sponsored children was provided once in a year in September 2021 during Ethiopian New Year.

Clothing like dress, shoe pants for 35 girls, and Jacket, trousers, and shoe for 41 boys. Night clothing like blanket and bed sheet was provided to all community families.



*provision of day and night clothing for community children*

### ***Provision of Formal and Quality Education for Community Children***

All the seventy-three of the community children received the education service at Bridge Magdalena Academy. The support includes school fee, Tutorial, transport, school materials (Uniform, school bag, exercise book, book rent, lunch box, pen and pensile).



*Graduation of KG3*



*School Material distribution*



*Uniform distribution*

### ***Provision of Health Service for Community Children***

Prevention and personal hygiene education was provided to the families of the sponsored children by the village nurse; in addition to that, all beneficiaries were supported with medication to both local and referral cases.

Annual health check-up was done once in the year in a government health centre. Furthermore, a physiotherapist had been employed as a per timer to support those children with disabilities.



*Health education*



*Annual health check up*

### ***Provision of Shower access for community children***

All the community children accessed the shower service three times a week. The service includes provision of soap, shower shoes and towels. A caregiver is assigned to look after each child during shower.



*shower facility for community children*

### ***water supply for the surrounding community***

The primary necessity for the people of Gondar City is an access for clean water,

Especially, the community around BoH compound has serious problem due to lack of water supply, as a result BoH provides 2000 liters of water every day for 50 families for free. This support crucially addresses the need of the surrounding community.



### ***Support for Homeless Family***

A task force has been formed by Gondar Fasil Sub City known as 'initiative for homeless families.' aiming at improving the wellbeing of poor and homeless families who are living in Gondar City. BoH contributed its part to make wooden and mud shelter for 90 homeless families.



## ***Emergency Support for war Affected Community***

The year 2021 is critical year in which security was the most burning issue of the community both in national and regional level.

The war which was extended to the Region where our centre is situated. Many villages and cities were invaded by rebellion troops and as a result, several children has been exposed to a high risks and problems.

Hence, Bridge of Hope, as a member of the community, contributed a support both in cash and in kind, such as wheat flour, medical goose, clothing, plastic medical bandages.



*Hand overing the supports in kind*