



OUR MISSION

To develop the potential, skills and abilities of persons affected by poverty, disability, gender discrimination or other hardship through initiatives focused on Education, Community Development and Socio-Economic Empowerment.

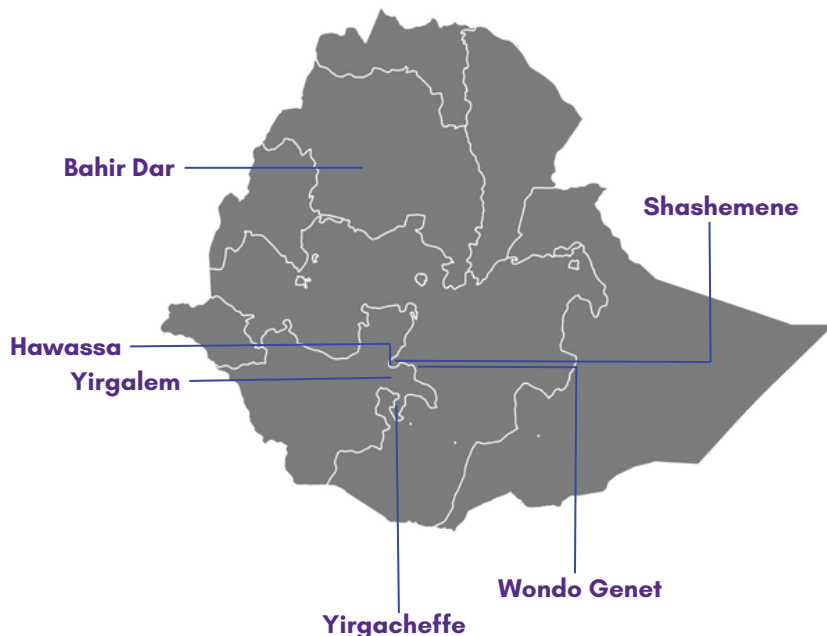
ABOUT US

Visions Global Empowerment Ethiopia (“Visions Ethiopia”) is an independent nonprofit organization that was established in early 2019 and is a registered Ethiopian Residents Charity (#4134). Visions Ethiopia work builds off the work of Visions USA, which has been actively supporting deaf education in Ethiopia since 2012.

WHERE WE WORK

Our work is currently focused on serving those in need in and around Hawassa, the capital of the Sidama Region in southern Ethiopia, where we operate a Center for the Deaf.

We also currently provide outreach services support to deaf communities in Shashemene (Oromia), Yirgalem (Sidama), Wondo Genet (Sidama), Yirgacheffe (Southern Nations), and Bahir Dar (Amhara).



THE NEED

Regular challenges faced by the deaf in Ethiopia:

- inability to access basic information or services
- communicate freely with others (including their own families/communities)
- hold a meaningful job or trade
- participate in basic community activities.

- **5+ million** persons are deaf or hard-of-hearing in Ethiopia
- **95%** of deaf persons nationwide are left out of formal education entirely and almost none will ever access formal employment.



VISIONS CENTER FOR THE DEAF

Hawassa, Sidama

Visions Ethiopia established the Visions Center for the Deaf in Hawassa in early 2020 to address the growing need for services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

OUR STUDENTS

- **80 students** ages 2-30 years old attend our Center
- **57%** had **no sign language ability prior** to coming to our Center
- **80%** of our students' families live at or **below the poverty line**
- **2%** of our students had **access to educational technology prior** to coming to the Center.

OUR SERVICES

-  **1** Ethiopian Sign Language training & skills development for students, family members, local civil society, and others from the community
-  **2** Interpretation services
-  **3** Mentorship (predominantly by Deaf professional adults)
-  **4** Preschool for early learners (ages 2-6)
-  **5** Regular nutritional & transportation support
-  **6** Job skills training and support

OUR TEAM

Our team currently consists of **18 full-time staff & volunteers** (13 of whom are deaf themselves) who serve in a variety of positions, including deaf educators, interpreters, and support staff. Our volunteers include local university students and graduates, parents, and other deaf adults. We provide small monthly stipends to several of these volunteers, as runaway unemployment and rampant inflation continue to create serious challenges.


BUILDING COMMUNITY

Through our services, participants have been able to improve their understanding and fluency in Ethiopian Sign Language, as well as an awareness about deafness and Deaf culture, leading to much more inclusive and effective communication and understanding. Our Center has become a gathering place for people to find community, language, support, friendship and respect -- the first place of its kind in this area!

SUPPORT / GET INVOLVED

- **Make a donation** online, via bank transfer, or by writing a check
- Donate **in-kind** contributions (*go to www.visionsethiopia.org/support*)
- Volunteer with us either in-person or virtually
- Provide professional services support
- Follow us on social media:

 @VisionsEthiopia

 @VisionsGlobalEmpowermentET9831