



# **VISIONS ETHIOPIA**

[www.visionsethiopia.org](http://www.visionsethiopia.org)



# About Us

**Accessibility • Education •  
Employment • Health • Empowerment**

- Established in early 2019 and is a registered Ethiopian Residents Charity (#4134).
- We are proud to be a part of the growing Visions family of organizations worldwide including Visions USA, Visions India, Visions Nicaragua, Visions Guatemala, and Visions Sri Lanka.
- Visions Ethiopia's work builds off the work of Visions USA, which has been actively supporting deaf education in Ethiopia since 2012.







# Our Mission

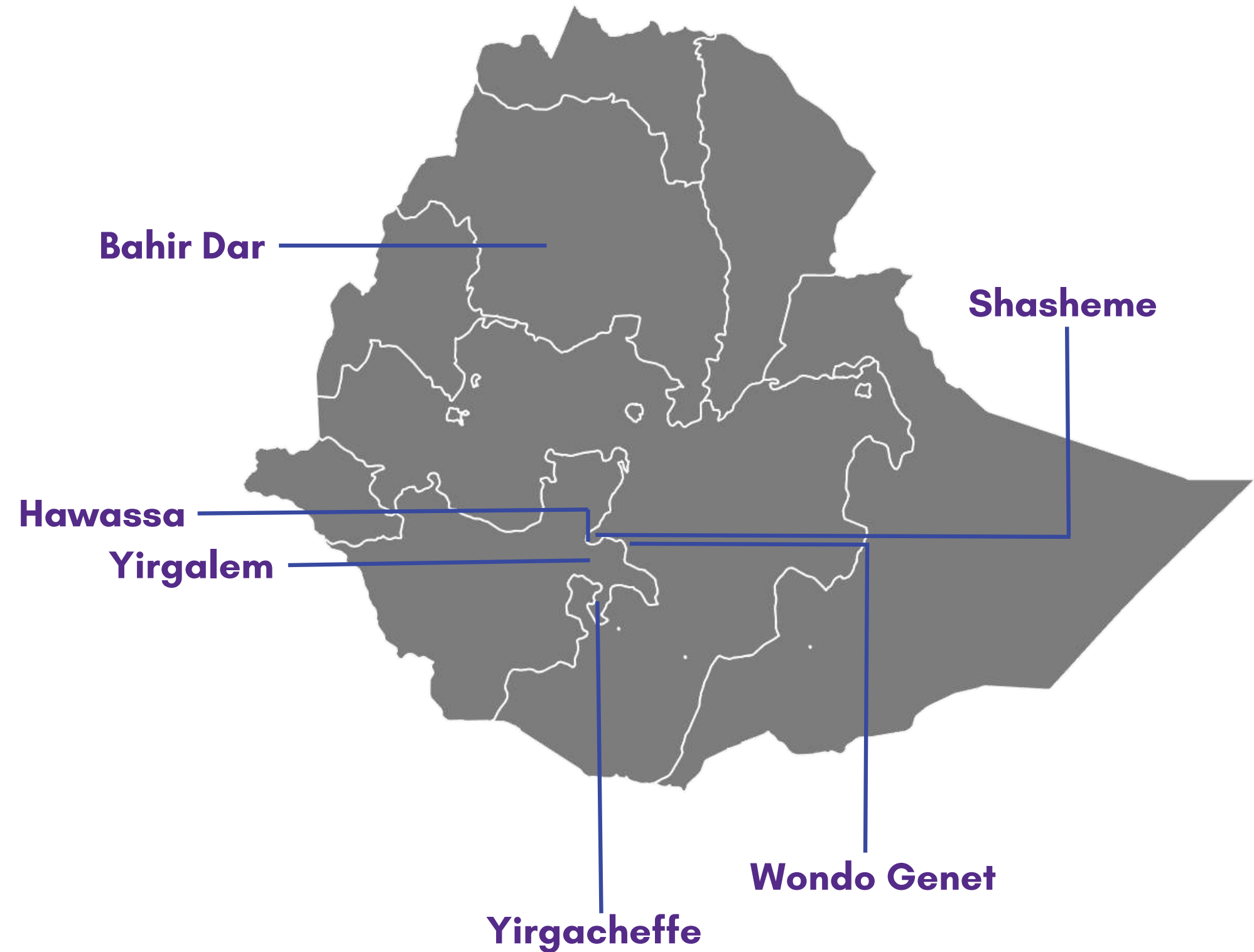
To develop the potential, skills and abilities of persons affected by poverty, disability, gender discrimination or other hardship through initiatives focused on Education, Community Development and Socio-Economic Empowerment.



# 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).





# Recognizing 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**

people who 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



**80%**

of our students' families  
live at or below the  
poverty line



**57%**

had no sign language  
ability prior to coming to  
our Center



**2%**

of our students had  
access to educational  
technology prior to  
coming to the center



# Our Work



**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



# Building a Community

- 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!
- Students who attend our Center receive daily language instruction and skills development.
- Participants have been able to improve their understanding and fluency in Ethiopian Sign Language, as well as an awareness about deafness and Deaf culture.





# 90+

meals served **per day** at our Center (free of charge).



**45+**

children receive free breakfast and lunch per day



**15+**

children attend the center's preschool daily







# Our Team

**18** full-time staff & volunteers

**13** staff & volunteers who are deaf themselves

- Our volunteers are from 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 have serious implications on the lives of most people.

◀ In-kind supplies donated by generous donors of Visions USA were received in June 2022





Ayele & Samira



"The sign language classes you are giving are going well. I am learning and have started communicating with my son. Even though we do not have much time, we are learning. There has already been a big change. Now he is more relaxed, and his behavior is improving.

**Now he comes to the center everyday, has his breakfast and lunch here, plays, has friends, and is happy."**





Yemiserach



"I am very happy to see this center, because I have been hiding my son and suffering alone for a long time. Thank you for coming all this way to visit us and to make this center happen, because my son is suffering—he is non-verbal, deaf, and has a serious heart condition. Thank you so much for what you are doing!

**I am grateful my son has great teachers here, because he had none before. Now my son has a future."**



# Support our Work



## Need

## Description & Cost

### Interpreters

- **\$300**/month to hire a full-time interpreter

### Deaf Teachers

- **\$200**/month to hire a full-time academic tutor

### Job Training Programs

- To address mass unemployment/underemployment, we seek to provide job training programs and establish income-generating support schemes for families.

### Transportation

- **\$60,000** for a 22-seater Toyota Coaster bus and import fees and duties

### Hearing Testing & Counseling Services

- Our program envisions having a physical testing site at our Center in Hawassa and mobile services that use tablets and mobile hearing testing technologies to reach rural populations.



# Your support is needed.

Transform the lives of rural youth and their families.

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## Contact

### **Visions Ethiopia**

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