



# OMO Child

Project Proposal Boarding school and clinic in Hamar/Bena region

June 2022



# Executive Summary

- Only 20% of children in the South Omo Zone complete primary school. Lack of education keeps harmful traditions such as Mingi superstitions, child marriage or physical harm alive
- Education and health services are key to transform the society towards prosperity and end the harmful traditional practises
- This project proposal targets those necessities: a primary boarding school, access to water and a clinic are corner stones to improve the children's situation over a project period of 5 years
- A phased approach reduces the financial risks associated to the project; Phase 1 is expected to require 145-180k€ within 2-3 years timeframe; total invest of up to 375k€ (first high level assessment)
- The deep involvement of the local community and a focus on sustainability are key to success; the communities need to understand the value of education
- The project lead of OMO Child Ethiopia ensures the buy-in of local communities and leverages experience from previous successful projects in collaboration with European partners



# Only 20% of children in the South Omo Zone complete primary school, keeping harmful traditions such as Mingi superstitions alive

## Background

- **South Omo Zone** is a culturally rich, highly diversified community. The population lives predominantly in pastoral tribes. So far it has received only little attention and support by the government in terms of basic services, such as schools and healthcare.
- The project focuses on **35-40 villages** in the South Omo Zone with a population of around 75,000 people, belonging to the **Hamar, Kara, Benatsemay (Bena) and Arbore tribes**
- Only 20% of children in the South Omo Zone complete primary school. For girls, the quota is even significantly lower and at an intolerable low level. Reasons are manifold:
  - Families do not understand the **value of education**
  - Children are used to **work** at home, to carry water or for animal herding
  - **Early marriage** of young girls is seen as source of income
  - **Detached settlement** of communities particularly in Hamar and Bena district limits children's access to schools
- Children with disabilities (CWD)s don't have any access to education
- Due to lack of education, the tribes still practise **harmful traditions** esp. in the Hamar district, like Mingi or physical harm (e.g. whipping). When a child is deemed **Mingi**, it is believed to be cursed and gets left alone in the bush without food and dies
- Besides, **climate conditions** and **lack of infrastructure** limit access to clean water for schools and communities, fuelling the superstition of Mingi ("children deemed to cause drought")





# Education and health services are key to transform the society towards prosperity and end the harmful traditional practises

## Our Vision and Project Objectives

### Vision

- Empowering boys and girls through education and health services to transform the society in the South Omo Zone towards prosperity
- Create a generation that is knowledgeable, skilled, ethical and role models to end the harmful traditional practises like Mingi, early child marriage or physical harm (e.g. whipping)

### Project Objectives:

- Provide access to high value education through a primary boarding school (grade 1-8)
- Provide access to clean water
- Provide access to primary health services
- Raise awareness in the communities to tackle the harmful traditional practises
- Ensure reliable access to food for children through horticulture / agriculture
- Build an inclusive community through education for children with disabilities



# A primary boarding school, deep water well and clinic are corner stones to improve the children's situation over a project period of 5 years

## Project Scope and Phasing

### General Approach:

- Start small with school for ~15 children, scale up by 15-20 children p.a. to ~75-100 children after 5 years
- Strive for equal share of boys and girls
- Secure access to food through own agriculture / horticulture of vegetables and corn – location Bori/Aliduba or Dimeka

### Phase 1 (year 1-3):

- **Primary School:**
  - 1 block with 3 standard classes and staff room
  - Fully furnished and provision of learning materials
  - Teachers training and quality control under leadership of OMO Child Jinka
- **Boarding school residence:**
  - Fully furnished children's residences for boys and girls with bathrooms for ~50 children
  - Dining hall and kitchen
- **Deep water well** with three 1000 liter water reservoirs and water installations at school and children's residence
- **Electricity** through generator or solar panels

### Phase 2 (year 4-5):

- **Expansion Primary school:**
  - 1 additional block with 3 standard classes
  - Start teaching of children with disabilities
- **Expansion residence**
  - For ~50 additional children
- **Clinic**
  - One room for basic treatments with separate delivery room
  - Furniture and medical equipment
  - Medical supplies



# A phased approach reduces the financial risks; Phase 1 expected to require 145-180€ within 2-3 years timeframe; total invest of up to 375k€

Budget (High Level Estimate)

## Phase 1 (year 1-3):

- Land expected to be granted by government
- Primary School: 50-60k€
- Boarding school residence: 50-60k€
- Deep water well: 15-20k€
- Electricity: 15-20k€
- Horticulture/agriculture: 15-20k€
- **Total** **145-180k€**

## Phase 2 (year 4-5):

- Expansion Primary school: 50-60k€
- Expansion residence: 40-50k€
- Expansion agriculture: 10-15K€
- Clinic: 50-60k€
- Chapel: 10k€
- **Total** **160 – 195k€**



# Deep involvement of local community and focus on sustainability are key to success; communities need to understand the value of education

## Key Success Factors

- **Bottom-up** implementation with deep involvement of the local communities to ensure aligned priorities and buy-in of project
- Close **collaboration of all partners** – communities, government, donors – under the **lead of experienced OMO Child Ethiopia**
- **Strategic location** of the project – fertile area, close to town and roads to attract and retain teachers
- Provision of required infrastructure, e.g. **boarding school and clean water**, to give incentive to enrol children
- **Sustainability** as guiding principle:
  - Help communities understand the **value of education**
  - Provide **employment** to local communities
  - Reduced dependency of donations. E.g. through **agriculture** / horticulture
- **Start small** with ability to scale up



# The project lead of OMO Child Ethiopia ensures the buy-in of local communities and leverages experience from previous successful projects

## About OMO Child

- Founded in 2009 by [Lale Labuko](#) (Kara tribes) and his spouse [Gido Sura](#) (Arbore tribe) and in collaboration with representatives of Kara, Hamar, Arbore and Benatsemay tribes
- Primary [purpose](#) of the charity is to [fight Mingi](#) in the lower Omo Valley and save lives of Mingi children. The vision is to eliminate Mingi practise by 2030
- [Proven track record](#) of implementation of comparable investments and operations:
  - Built and operates a [children's home](#) in Jinka where 51 rescued Mingi children between 1 and 19 years grow up under the motto "Care and Love"
  - Built (with Fly & Help Germany) and runs a [primary school](#) with >300 children since 2021. Education is considered as a fundamental requirement to transform the society of the lower OMO valley to a better standard of living and to ultimately stop Mingi.
- [Financed](#) by donations from US, Austria and Germany as well as through school fees

