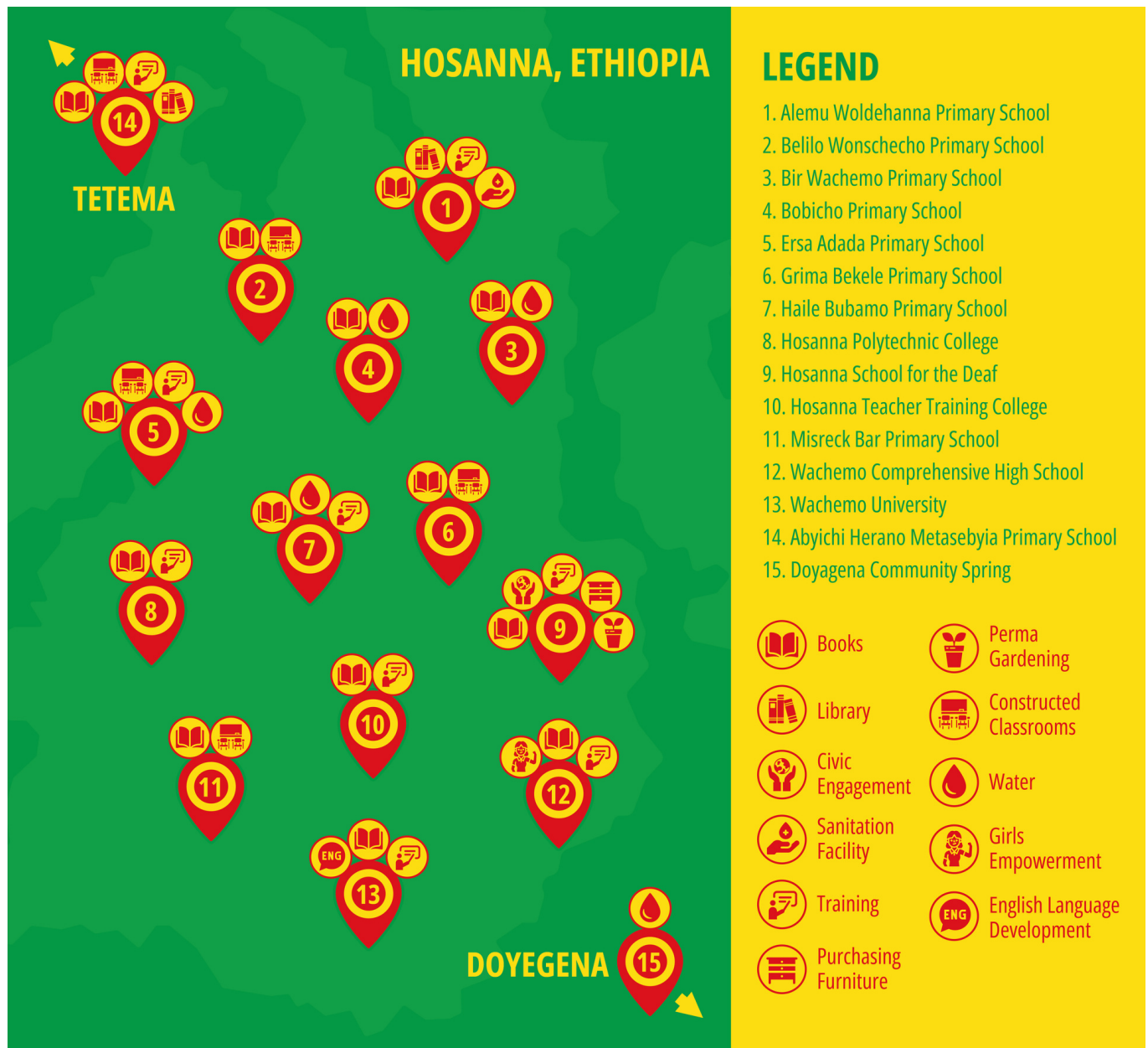




Empowering Communities in Ethiopia

H2 Empower has provided classrooms, training, libraries, supplies, water and hope to Ethiopians. This document shows some highlights from our work.

This map shows the schools where we worked in southern Ethiopia and the variety of programs and projects implemented in each school.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Hosanna, Ethiopia



Alemu Woldehanna Primary School

H2 Empower built a community library with nearly 15,000 books in English and local languages with the support of the town, county, US Ambassador's *Self Help Grant*, and other grants. There is a children's room with learning materials, a main reading room for 75 visitors, a computer center with 24 computers, internet access, printers and a librarian's working room.

This library is on the grounds of a primary school serving 1659 students in 2023, but has daily visitors of high school students, parents, teachers and university students. Many students have succeeded in their national exams and our library supported their efforts through the utilization of textbooks and study guides available to them. The space is used for training and local meetings as well.

The school has received recognition for its achievement with the presence of this library as an important factor. H2 Empower provided all the books, learning materials, and furniture. We facilitated the training of 212 school librarians with two cohorts focusing in depth on library management. The emphasis is in creating a community library in their schools, and enhancing librarians' skills, motivation and potential to grow literacy in their communities.

In addition, we built 12 sanitation facilities to provide a healthy and clean environment for the students.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Belilo Wonschecho Primary School

H2 Empower built three classrooms and provided classroom furniture to further enhance the educational facilities at this school as per teacher recommendations. In addition, we provided the books for their library and sun panels to increase access to light for reading within the school.

This kindergarten class alone has 114 children enrolled. In 2023, we provided furniture built by local carpenters to provide seating and supplies for the children. These improvements increase motivation for both students and teachers and help provide more attention to each learner.



See the video of children dancing in thanks for improving their school





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Bir Wachimo Primary School

H2 Empower served 100 families when we started to work there and now there are 10,000 families. We worked with the town to provide clean water to the school and the neighboring community. The school was so far from the center of town that when the water department worked to bring in water to the school and to the community, they saw the underdeveloped condition of the road. This new water project inspired the local government to send crews to install gravel roads to improve travel to the center of town.

H2 Empower supplied books to the school's small library and created classroom reading corners. In addition, H2 Empower provided soccer balls for the kindergarten children to enjoy.



This is a video of the children showing their appreciation for us bringing water to this community.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Bobicho Primary School

This school was the most impoverished in Hosanna Town, serving the most marginalized students, when we first came in 2003. Today it has grown to include many more school buildings, a lovely library, and has added a public secondary school to serve its students who would have to walk very far to get to the secondary school. H2 Empower provided most of the books in this library as well as other materials.



H2 Empower contributed many books to the library.

H2 Empower brought water to the school and to the 10,000 homes in this neighborhood. With the new access to water, the town added sanitation and other water points for the thousands of people in the community.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Ersa Adada Primary School

This school served 400 families in 2017 and in 2023 serves 5,000 families. The school is located near the weekly marketplace, with families with very little means. We brought clean water to the campus, and they extended it to the Kindergarten class. The neighborhood also received access to water and asphalt roads to improve the infrastructure. H2 Empower built four kindergarten classrooms for 400 children. (They have 2 sessions each day in one classroom). The younger children are now able to begin to learn readiness skills to be successful in school. This school also has many special needs students who benefit from these advancements. In addition, H2 Empower donated many books to their library and facilitated girl's empowerment training there.



**Teachers learning a new
Girls Empowerment
Curriculum.**





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Grima Bekele Primary School

This school, located at the north end of the town, has 1553 students, with an average of 80 in each class In 2023. We constructed classrooms to support the student body within this school. While the majority of families struggle with finances, the school has high expectations and more facilities than most, such as a strong water resource, a well organized library, and thanks to a coalition of donors, now 4 new kindergarten classes. Having an attractive and comfortable learning environment is very important for self confidence and self respect. Students can concentrate on learning without being frustrated with overcrowding and inability to get the teacher's help when needed. Now the sky's the limit for these bright young students. H2 Empower also donated many books to this school, trained their librarians and helped build the kindergarten classrooms.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Haile Bubamo Primary School

H2 Empower originally served 200 families for this school, when we first began to work in Ethiopia and now there are 3,000 families who benefit from the water project we completed.

This school is in the highest point of the town and extremely remote. We were able to bring water up the mountain to this school and local communities with challenging engineering. Then there were many water points installed on the way for the residential community there. In addition, once the water was installed, another NGO, Roots Ethiopia, put in modern toilets for the school, an example of the power of collaboration. We also donated books to this school library and used it for teacher and librarians training.



This photo shows the teachers getting the books to go to the school from the teacher's college.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Hosanna Teacher Training College in Hosanna

This institution provides training for future primary school teachers from four surrounding counties in southern Ethiopia. Helen Boxwill, our Executive Director spent her first full year here in 2003-2004, implementing a certification program for college teachers using government sponsored new teaching methods such as active and student-centered learning. During that year, she organized the school library from a space with no books to a fully operating library with books on every subject, including reference books.

Helen facilitated workshops for primary and kindergarten teachers as well as for the college professors. She spearheaded, with a local college teacher, a Girls Club to support the female students in their desire to achieve success at college and in the future. Helen Boxwill visited many local schools and consulted with teachers and education bureau staff, building a network for communication of ideas and strategies to support their efforts. Many books and materials were distributed to public schools throughout the town to benefit the larger community.



The library before H2 Empower.



The library after H2 Empower donated books.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Hosanna School for the Deaf

This is the only boarding school for deaf students in the country, serving children in Kindergarten through High School. The students are taught numerous trades as they pursue academic courses. We purchased well-made furniture for the library, which helps support this school. H2 Empower provided the school library with books, including specialized sign language books and trained the classroom teachers, librarians, and girls club leaders. We also implemented a permaculture training so the students could provide for themselves when they were living on their own. The school used that garden to feed the students fresh organic vegetables.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Misrack Bir Primary School * The ultimate success story.

This school served 500 families when H2 Empower first started working with them in 2015 and in 2023 there are 20,000 families in this community. When we first came to the school, it was the most remote rural area of all schools in Hosanna. The education department staff had not been to visit the school and it was run down and inadequate. We donated books to their library and built four new classrooms.

H2 Empower changed the trajectory of this community and school by providing access to water. The town government noticed the conditions of the area and improved the roads in the neighborhood to the main part of town, installed water points in various parts of the community, and government brought water into 40 homes, which is very rare. *Not only that, the government gave people deeds to their homes which they did not previously have!* The parents were thrilled by such a change in their lives. Later another NGO collaborator built a beautiful Kindergarten, and the school was fenced in for protection. The entire compound was transformed and the staff and children were delighted. Enrollment tripled and the school won awards for academic success.



This photo shows the water that came out of the river that was the only access to water for this community. Now they can be healthy with clean potable water.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Watchemo Comprehensive High School in Hosanna

This school of over 2,000 students, has historically nurtured university-ready students. H2 Empower has provided books, scientific equipment and staff training there. H2 Empower trained all the teacher advisors in all the local public schools and the Deaf School in Hosanna. We shared strategies and information to support girls to develop leadership & study skills, offered health education and more. H2 Empower contracted an Ethiopian master teacher to train all the Girls Club teachers. We met with over 100 girls in this high school to give them an opportunity to discuss their challenges and concerns and their future, as high school students.

An example of what we learned is that many parents didn't support their female students to continue learning since they thought they would, "just get married." The girls had scheduling and safe space issues, lack of textbooks, bullying from some male students and more. We cataloged their concerns and presented them to the School Director, who in turn held a faculty meeting to discuss how to resolve some of these issues. The girls reported that there were some helpful changes in the school and continued to meet with their advisor for support and motivation.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Wachemo University in Hosanna

This public university opened in 2012 serving the people of Hosanna and their zone as well as students from all over the country. It includes medical, law, engineering, agricultural and other academic fields and has just built a new hospital for the community. H2 Empower has provided many library books, trained English professors and librarians, donated software for computer assisted instruction, brought in guest lecturers in fields including architecture, promoted real life English practice with students, connected professors with the education system in Hosanna, and supported the academic research of some professors.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Abyichi Herano Metasebyia Primary School in Tetema

This remote school, located 40 kilometers away from Hosanna, was built entirely by parent involvement. H2 Empower built a library, sent books, and trained the local librarian. We also built four kindergarten classrooms and four primary school classrooms along with providing furniture and school supplies.

The commitment of this entire community is inspiring. We have been blessed by the elders and honored by a feast. During this celebration the county officials saw the needs of this rural area and the dedication of the people. They leveled the road with gravel, removing the obstacles and challenges of mudslides and treacherous travel. After the construction of the school buildings, the town leaders gathered and created a new village square with some small businesses. A new weekly market was added for people to sell their crops and for them to generate income.

H2 Empower's support of building four classrooms generated hope and further commitment for community improvement. Families have demonstrated what is possible when people get together to enhance lives.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

Doyagena Community Spring in Doyegena

This community, about 20 kilometers north of Hosanna, had no nearby access to clean water. This meant women spent much time carrying heavy water cans home and even then, the water wasn't potable. We worked with Melody Hazel, a Peace Corps volunteer serving in that community, with *Charity Water*, and with local engineers to pipe in water through a large filtration system and then to a fountain.

Community members can now fill up gerry cans for personal use. The community organized hiring a guard to maintain security at the site and make sure that the system was always in working order. This water project was built by local volunteers and the community was thrilled to finally have clean water for their families.

