

SUMMER PROGRAM

TRIP REPORT 2019



Seeds of Africa

SUMMARY

From July 22 to August 16, 2019, Seeds of Africa's New York City team travelled to Ethiopia for their second annual team trip. The team spent a month working from our campus in Adama, facilitating the annual summer program, and laying the groundwork for future projects. The core purpose of the trip was the facilitation of the Seeds of Africa school Summer Camp, a four-week program that exposes students to a variety of educational activities. Additionally, the team oversaw the move to a new school campus in Adama, and worked on monitoring, evaluating, and improving our operations on the ground. Finally, the trip allowed us to make strides in the development and implementation of our Nutrition Program in partnership with Chef Yohanis Hailemariam and his team, and saw the beginning of a key strategic partnership with the Adama City Mayor Office.



HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Camp

The Seeds of Africa team facilitated Summer Camp curriculum activities. The four-week program is comprised of a Science Week, Arts Week, Civics and Geography Week, and Sports Week. The aim of the program is to expose our students to a variety of educational activities that can inspire potential career paths.

We kicked the camp off with our Science Week, where students partook in experimental projects like making erupting volcanoes and launchable rockets. We followed with Civics and Geography, educating our students about Ethiopian government, important socio-economic justice themes, and their place in the world. Our Arts Week followed, facilitated by a team led by Addis Fine Arts member artist Leikun Nahusenay. The team taught our students how to paint, sketch and sculpt their very own works of art, culminating in a breathtaking art exhibit full of interesting artworks. We closed out the summer with a week of sports and games and a fun, competitive multi-activity tournament.



Campus Relocation and Renovations

The Seeds of Africa school is ever-evolving, and this summer we entered our next phase of growth by moving to a larger facility for the Seeds of Africa school campus. The facility was formerly a school, with basic infrastructure for classrooms, offices, playgrounds, and common areas for student gathering. However, the school is not yet fully renovated, and the team engaged in space allocation and landscaping strategy during the trip. We established the offices for our ground operations, and all Seeds of Africa operations are now run from the new campus. Students began using the facility for the annual Summer Camp, and will continue to do so for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

Board Visits

Each year, our board members, New York and Ethiopian staff join forces for four weeks of fully immersive bonding and strategizing. Seeds of Africa's board members Deborah Starr, Elizabeth Dettorri, and Stephanie Bond made week-long visits during the summer program, accompanied by long-time Seeds partners Devin Benton and Tony Castrigno. The group aided in various strategy and planning activities including reviewing our monitoring and evaluation processes, revising Seeds of Africa Ethiopia's organizational structure, amending our Five Year plan, and outlining a strategy for our programs and projects in the 2019-2020 year.

Capacity Building

As a capacity building exercise, the New York City team spent the month working from campus and getting better acquainted with our staff on the ground. We hosted our third annual staff retreat which featured a day of team building exercises and fun activities. We also interviewed candidates for three operations positions and a teaching role. It is our pleasure to announce that Miheret Sisay has joined our team as the Injera Project Manager, Melese Anbesse is our new Campus Facilities Manager, and Agumas Alehegn has been hired as the new Operations Manager. The Seeds of Africa school also welcomes Frehiwot Sisay, who has been hired as our first full-time art teacher.

Program Strategy

Over the summer period, we strategized ways to improve our programs. We revised our student selection process with the team, and met with our partners at Accelerated Learning to discuss curriculum development plans for the 2019-2020 school year. Accelerated is an independent coaching company that helps teachers learn, develop and implement 21st century skills in the classroom. Lastly, we met with the Seeds of Africa school counselor to strategize Seeds of Africa's student wellness framework in preparation for the new school year.



PARTNERSHIPS

Adama City Mayoral Meetings

Our Founder and CEO Atti Worku and Country Director Bereket Yirgu met with the Mayor of Adama, His Honor Assegid Getachew, to propose a partnership to expand our programs and impact in the city and the greater Oromia region. Discussions centered on Seeds of Africa's plans to acquire land in the city of Adama to build and launch our Dream School; an Ethiopian Academy that meets the highest international standards, complete with a library, sports complex and community centre that are open and accessible to the public. We believe that together, we can provide multidimensional health, nutrition, education, and economic development services that empower the people and communities of Adama, and we look forward to continuing to cultivate this key partnership.

Nutrition Program

Our 2019 priorities are the expansion of the on-campus Nutrition Program. We have partnered with the award-winning child nutrition organization Chaak Snacks and the internationally acclaimed Ethiopian chef and TV personality Yohanis Hailemariam to develop nutritious, brain-boosting menus. Over the summer period, Chef Yohanis and his team conducted three site visits at the Seeds of Africa campus, where they assessed the new campus location and met the kitchen staff, formulated a formal program launch plan, and cooked a sample meal with the staff using locally available and nutrient-heavy ingredients.

MISSION

Empowering the African Vision

Seeds of Africa is a nonprofit organization educating the next generation of Ethiopia's leaders and empowering their mothers to become entrepreneurs.

Our programs aim to provide students, families, and their larger networks in the city of Adama with the resources they need to alleviate poverty, support themselves and reinvest in their local community.

VISION

Seeds of Africa's vision is to **replicate our sustainable model in the broader Ethiopian system** and in other African communities by partnering with government, civil society, NGOs and the private sector.

