



7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Rainbows4Children Supporters,

As we celebrate Ethiopian Christmas Day (Gena) today, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we send our warmest wishes: "Melkam Gena" to our Ethiopian friends!

We are pleased to share some good news—just before the school took a brief holiday break, we received word that another year group of Grade 8 students achieved a 100% pass rate in their exams. This incredible success is a testament to the hard work and resilience of both our students and teachers, especially given the demanding accelerated learning program that condenses a 10-month curriculum into just 5 months. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and achievements.

Take a moment to revisit some highlights from our recent November visit in this video: [Watch Here](#).

**Looking Ahead:**

We are excited to announce the gradual reopening of our college program for students who opt not to pursue university. This initiative offers short courses designed to equip participants with practical skills to launch their own small businesses—a vital step in creating sustainable livelihoods amidst challenging circumstances. As we witness 32,000 Tigray youth leaving the country each month via perilous routes, this program offers a beacon of hope. We extend heartfelt thanks to a new foundation supporter for fully funding the first year of this program, allowing students to access these courses free of charge.

**2024: A Year of Remarkable Achievements**

- **Grade 8 Success:** Two cycles of students passed with 100% success.
- **University Entrance Exam:** 98% of our students (140 out of 144) passed, compared to the national average of 5.4%.
- **Scholarships Awarded:**
  - One student accepted at African Leadership Academy (full scholarship).
  - One student accepted at African Science Academy (full scholarship).
  - One student accepted at Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (full scholarship).
  - One student accepted at US International University - Africa, Nairobi Campus (full scholarship via Mastercard Foundation).
- **Support for 500 Extra Students:** While waiting for other schools to reopen.
- **Supplementary Feeding Program:** 1,400 students receive daily nutrition, including bananas, oranges, milk/yogurt, and eggs.
- **Lunch Program:** 150 meals provided daily for students with insufficient food at home.
- **Ongoing Education:** 1,900 students continue their education from kindergarten to Grade 12.
- **College Short Courses:** Reopening in January 2025.

None of these achievements would be possible without your support. As we start 2025, we thank you all and wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Warm regards,  
Max and Kathryn