



# 2020- 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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## INTRODUCTION

The Fregenet Foundation has reached a milestone as it celebrates its seventeenth year of existence. Each of these seventeen years has seen a multitude of challenges which we were able to turn into amazing opportunities. Over these past years, the number of graduates has reached more than 470. The graduates joined grade schools to continue their elementary education and a sizeable number of them have succeeded in pursuing college level education, the first batch past their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Our support for these children of the Fregenet Foundation never ends with their graduation from the Fregenet Kidan LeHitsanat School but continues for years during their education at elementary and high schools but also at colleges. Such a deep and long-term commitment is part of our strategic plan to create generations of educated Ethiopians who will have the knowledge but also the will to help others and make changes that will improve the condition of their fellow citizens.



We at the Fregenet Foundations acknowledge the honor of being able to serve those who are vulnerable and deprived of necessities. We are humbled by the support we continue to receive from people from all walks of life and from around the world. We recognize that where we are today is a result of hard work, persistence, deep commitment, and sacrifice but also the unwavering support of our partners. We believe that all these contributed to our success in serving our children, their parents, and the community at large for all those years and will do so for the years to come. Our commitment to serve is solid and unshakeable. Yes, we know that

there are multiple challenges to overcome including those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The transition to online schooling has been difficult in the absence of all the required resources such as a reliable internet and computers in the home of the students we serve from underserved communities. Online fundraising is not the same as in-person fundraising. Notwithstanding, we have been able to accomplish a lot over the last year and this is a result of steadfast dedication, unwavering support, and unshakeable belief in our conviction and commitment to serve.

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are some of the Foundation's most important activities in the last fiscal year.

### GRADUATION

On July 31, 2021, the Fregenet Foundation conducted a fun and joy-filled annual graduation ceremony of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year kindergarten students in the presence of the parents of the graduates, teachers, and staff at Fregenet Kidan LeHitsanat school, and invited guests. The whole ceremony was COVID compliant per the recommendation of Ethiopia's Ministry of Health.

The required distance was strictly kept, and the tent used for the occasion was only half-occupied to meet the criteria for social distancing. The event included music, dance, poetry, fashion show and a theatrical account of River Abay, otherwise known as the Nile. 23 students received certificates of graduation which was then followed by the handing of certificates of gratitude and recognition to teachers and staff at the FKL for their exemplary service during the time of the global COVID-19 pandemic.



## ADDIS ABABA AND BISHOFTU PROJECTS

The foundation has accomplished several tasks in Addis Ababa and Bishoftu, which included the following:

- Education at the Fregenet LeHitsanat School proceeded smoothly following the resumption of in-person teaching. About seventy students attended the school every other day including Saturday. The school continued to provide food and educational materials. The school's successful reopening has culminated with a graduation that took place on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



- The school has already hired a replacement of the school's manager who recently left for family reasons.
- A successful fundraising event was organized, and more than 200,000 birr was raised.
- Construction work at the Fregenet Dembi Elementary School in Bishoftu is going efficiently. Major structural works have been completed and roof work, door and window work and fencing have also begun. But building material shortages coupled with the price hikes have delayed the completion of the construction.



- A working visit to the Fregenet Dembi school was organized and it was attended by several NGO officials in town. The visitors were impressed and convinced that the school could become a great model school for the country in recognition of what it commits to do for the children in the school, their parents, and the community at large.
- The Foundation's ten-year long request for land to build a state-of-the-art school and model elementary school in Addis Ababa has been approved by the city's cabinet. A letter was already sent to the Qirqos sub-city for implementation. Once paperwork is completed and a lease agreement is signed, the next steps would be to start design work and apply for a building permit. Design work has already begun, and the Foundation is preparing to construct a new school and a permanent facility on its own land.



- The Fregenet Foundation has reached a verbal understanding with Geneva Global to launch a Speed School program at the Fregenet Dembi Elementary School (in the daytime) and the Fregenet LeHitsanat School in the evening, both starting in September 2021. Geneva Global operates a Speed School program which offers accelerated education for vulnerable out-of-school children ranging from 9 to 15 years-old. The program condenses years of education into a year or a few months in addition to creating opportunities for income generation for schools and teachers involved in the program.

- A group of young and dynamic professionals from Addis Ababa are now brought together to help in the work of the Foundation in the capital city and its environs. The Fregenet Foundation will continue to encourage young people and promote gender representation in board membership and all its other activities.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL RESEARCH AND CONSULTING GROUP (GRC)**

The Fregenet Foundation and GRC Western have been partnering to promote the Foundation’s mission and its growth aspirations to serve Ethiopian youth and vulnerable communities. GRC Western duly acknowledged the experience of working with the Foundation and expressed its continued commitment to help the Foundation identify sustainable financial opportunities and increase its visibility through new marketing initiatives.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

It is a pleasure to once again and report to our esteemed supporters and partners that the Fregenet Foundation has kept healthy finances despite the difficult fundraising environment which was made worse by the global pandemic. The financial health of the Foundation is attributable to the continued support of our partners and the prudent financial management it has developed over the years.

In the 2020/2021 budget year, total revenue for the year was \$55,963 which includes: grants \$15,000, student sponsorship \$13,385, contribution-school construction \$7,230, and general donation \$20,274.

Total expenses for the year amounted to \$86,687 which includes program expense-construction \$73,000, program expense \$10,000, D&O Insurance and other \$3,687.

The Foundation fund balance on fiscal year end, June 30, 2021, was \$122,981.



## CONCLUSION

Humanity is still in the throes of a global pandemic, a major public health crisis that has upended almost everything – life, work, relationships. Our world may never be the same again. At the same time, though, people have shown the will and resilience they need to confront such a global challenge. What we have witnessed over the last two years since the pandemic struck the world is a coming together of humanity to show compassion, comfort one another, to serve others, especially those who are vulnerable. This is what the Fregenet Foundation has been doing since its inception and more so over the last two years. Despite the challenges, some of which were unprecedented, we have been able to maintain the same level of service and commitment to our students, their parents, and the community at large.

The key to our success in our continued service during a major global crisis is the unwavering support we continue to enjoy from our partners. The support we have combined with our deep conviction and commitment to serve has become a foundation of our growth and expansion and our increasing ability to serve more children. We deeply thank you for your belief in us and support for our mission. As we always say, your donations, your advice, and your support that comes in many other forms are what we need to continue and expand our services to those who are deprived of them.

Thank you



## The Fregenet Foundation

*The Fregenet Foundation and its School Fregenet Kian Lehitsanat admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, disability, and religion to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, disability, or religion in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.*