

ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



*Kerkebet Maternity Home. A project constructed in coordination with the Eritrean Development Foundation.
Photo by Kip Mackey, 2018.*

HISTORY

The Eritrean Development Foundation is rooted in an effort to first bring relief, then development to the people of Eritrea. In its first incarnations, it was known as the Eritrean Relief Committee. After Eritrea won its struggle for Independence, it became the Eritrean Development Foundation (EDF).

Since Eritrea's Independence, the EDF has worked with partners in Eritrea to accomplish a variety of development missions, ranging from: emergency drought relief, education, and health care.

JOURNEY TO KERKEBET

The Eritrean Development Foundation recently completed its contribution to the construction of a new maternity home in Kerkebet, Anseba, Eritrea. Below is a trip summary to the site by two members of the EDF Board (Dr. Fickack Habtes & Kip Mackey). The journey to Kerkebet was long but full of excitement. I had not been to Kerkebet since the 1980s and was excited to approach it from Asmara versus through Sudan.

We travelled through the northern Highlands, passing through the city of Keren. Later in the day we traveled over dirt roads to approach a distant, albeit small town of Kerkebet. The maternity home is sited on a large site with a large L-shaped building towards one edge of the site. A separate building on the site includes a common sanitation facility for the maternity home.

Thank you to our partner in developing this maternity home in Kerkebet, the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW).

WHY IS THIS MATERNITY HOME IMPORTANT?

Kerkebet is a small, remote town with many nearby pastoralists (nomadic or semi-nomadic peoples) as well as villages without access to staffed medical facilities. The Kerkebet maternity home will act as a hub for expectant mothers from these areas to access medical services.

Maternity homes are important healthcare mitigations that improve outcomes for pregnant women and their children. Maternity homes are built near a medical center with essential obstetric services and allow pregnant women to travel there several weeks before delivery, await labor, and be transferred quickly and safely to a medical center for safe delivery.

A THANK YOU TO THE DONORS TO THE KERKEBET MATERNITY HOME PROJECT

The Kerkebet maternity home project was completed as a partnership between the Eritrean Development Foundation and our partner in Eritrea, the National Union of Eritrean Women. Funds for this project were primarily provided by the donors of EDF, especially the Laurie Chreitzberg Fund. The Laurie Chreitzberg Fund project to support maternal health care in Eritrea was invaluable in developing and completing this project.



Video diary from our project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=B88zwLT7AdA&feature=emb_title

ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MISSION

The Eritrean Development Foundation's mission is to work in partnership with grassroots nongovernmental organizations, community groups, and other local institutions engaged in education, health care, and agricultural development in Eritrea to build a productive and self-reliant Eritrea.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



ASMAÏT SOLOMON

My name is Asmaït! I am a recent masters graduate and I currently live in Dallas, Texas. Over the past decade, I have helped elevate and unite my community by creating and facilitating an organization called HIDRI Dallas, with some of my best friends. This experience has been vital in shaping me to become the person that I am today. With HIDRI, I have organized major events such as benefit dinners, history retreats, enrichment seminars, volunteering events and created program content for national YPFDJ conferences. I am forever dedicated to continuing the extraordinary legacy of our martyr's, this is at the center of everything that I do and I hope this opportunity will allow me to do all I can to make their vision of Eritrea come to fruition. I'm very honored to be joining the distinguished Eritrean Development Foundation and I look forward to using the skills I've learned thus far to implement major development projects in Eritrea.



LUWAM NEMARIAM

My name is Luwam Nemariam and I also reside in Dallas, Texas. I have a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and currently am working as a Registered Nurse. I have experience leading various organizations both within the Eritrean community and outside. Through my experience I have taken part in coordinating community outreach events which include development, fundraising, entertainment, and location logistics both here in America and in Eritrea. I am excited to use the knowledge that I have gained and be able to bring it to the Eritrean Development Foundation.



SEBLE TSEHAYE

I am Seble Tsehaye and I work at the Embassy of Eritrea in Washington, DC as an Assistant Political Officer. Prior to this role, I have helped various positions within the discipline of Human Resources/ Organizational Development. I graduated from the Boston College's Carroll School of Business. I have had over 20 years of experience leading organizational development in the Hospitality Industry and serve as a board member of the National Union of Eritrean Women.

WE CAN ONLY MAKE PROGRESS TO THAT MISSION WITH THE HELP OF OUR DONORS. TO BECOME A DONOR TO THE ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION SUBMIT THE FORM BELOW OR GO TO EDFONLINE.ORG/DONATE

EDF DONATION FORM

I HAVE COMPLETED THE FORM BELOW AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION PROGRAMS.
ENCLOSED IS A CHECK PAYABLE TO "ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION".

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PLEASE MAIL A COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:
ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, PO BOX 395, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150.