

# Vita Newsletter



*March, 2018*

*Vita is an Irish international non-governmental organization working to achieve thriving rural economies in Africa with access to services, markets and livelihoods for all.*



## Exciting New Resilience Project Announced

Vita are thrilled to announce that we have signed one of our biggest contracts ever this month in Ethiopia, a cross border resilience project in the Omo River Delta. The EU have asked Vita and a small team of other NGOs to deliver a substantial project on the Ethiopian and Kenyan border. Vita already delivered successful programmes in the area in partnership with the EU. Vita has been allocated EUR2.1 million from a EUR12.1 million budget. We will be working with the lead agency VSFG (Veterinaires Sans Frontieres Germany) along with two other Ethiopian and Kenyan local

NGOs. The overall objective of the project is to address the drivers of instability, irregular migration and displacement in the southwest Ethiopia- northwest Kenya border area. Vita's role is supporting youth and women groups in technical and entrepreneurship skills building, live-stock management and rangeland development. We are building on our existing presence and experience working in the area. Primarily we will be working with the Hammer, Dassenech and Nyan-gatom people who are living with the impacts of climate change.



## Our Work in East Africa

### Vita Programmes

<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>EU RESET (&amp; UN OCHA)</b>	<b>€ 5,100,000</b>	<b>2017-2020</b>
Resilience capacity of targeted pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and pastoralist dropouts through enhanced sustainable livelihood productivity & income; and increased employment opportunities / fodder distribution Target 9,000 HH			
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>EU CROSS BORDER</b>	<b>€ 2,100,000</b>	<b>2018-2021</b>
Focus on pastoralist communities - Final budget under negotiation			
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>EU KONSO</b>	<b>€ 160,000</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
To improve & diversify income & livelihood for 1500 HH; To reinforce local government & community institutional capacity to promote sustainable systems; To ensure active participation of community in CC mitigation and adaptation.			
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>IRISH AID</b>	<b>€ 3,500,000</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>
Potato seed supply, crop improvement (potatoes, highland maize, oats), household livelihoods (Veg & poultry) Cookstoves, access to water: target 58,000 HH			
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>IRISH EMBASSY</b>	<b>€ 900,000</b>	<b>2016-2018</b>
To promote climate smart agricultural policy, approaches and practice in agricultural economic development; To improve food and nutrition security and strengthen livelihood sustainability and outcomes for 10,600 HHs			
<b>ERITREA</b>	<b>IRISH AID</b>	<b>€ 3,000,000</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>
Development and testing of new systems: Livestock improvement (breeding/agribusiness), potato sector development (seed supply), crop improvement (wheat/millet), capacity building , cookstoves, access to water: target 30,000 HH			

## Life-Changing Borehole Repairs

Approaching the end of the year John Weakliam went to Eritrea with Vita's Chairman Dermot Byrne. Over the course of the week they met with ambassadors as well as visiting Vita sites. These sites ranged from improved cook stoves to water repair sites. We were thrilled to meet with the Director General of the Water Resources Department Mr Mebrahtu Iyassu at one of the water repair sites. It is essential for communities to access the education and training involved in fixing water points or they will simply stay broken as have 40% of Africa's water points. The water repair programme being delivered by Vita makes enormous differences to peoples' lives. During the 2017 over 230 water points were repaired, benefiting at least 180,000 people. This causal effect leads to numerous life changing opportunities, particularly regarding water -borne diseases and reduced drudgery for women and children.





## The Great Ethiopian Run

One of the largest annual events Vita participates in is the Great Ethiopian Run. For the last seven years we have brought enthusiastic supporters out to Ethiopia giving their best in the run of a lifetime. On November 25<sup>th</sup> 2017, 40,000 people ran the 10Km stretch across the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa including a team from Avolon and Vita. A run in the 28 degree heat took some acclimatising for the Irish runners, however this didn't hold them back. With bands pumping out the most authentic music it would be impossible not to enjoy the party atmosphere. You can choose your own pace, smiling with those who are also grooving away to the talented musicians.

The trip is approximately seven days, giving supporters the chance to familiarise themselves with Vita's work in other parts of Ethiopia. Everyone gets the opportunity to visit rural families and communities in the South West.

The 18<sup>th</sup> of November may seem miles or should I say kilometres away but places are already filling up. If you are reading this and thinking to yourself that I want to go then email Céline-Fleur at [Celine-Fleur.Halpin@Vita.ie](mailto:Celine-Fleur.Halpin@Vita.ie) or contact Vita on (01) 873-4303.

Below are some photos from the GER 2017.



## Irish Potato Experts Visit Ethiopia

In November 2017 Vita were delighted to have potato experts Tom Keogh from Keogh's Crisps, John Stafford from Slaney Farms and Tony Doyle from Country Crest visited the Chenchu region located in the Southern Ethiopian highlands.

They spent a week of their time examining the systems and processes to ensure a consistent supply of disease free, certified quality seed is in operation. The potato is now moving from a food crop to a cash crop in the region. Revenue gained from potato sales is helping to educate children and opening other business opportunities. Visits were also made to potato cooperatives. Co-ops have been created to enable local farmers to access market prices for their potatoes. Overall we received great feedback

enabling us to improve on the roll-out of programmes. Having such experts educate Vita staff is valuable beyond words. Meetings were also had with Gamo Gofa Co-op union, the Ethiopian Department of Agriculture in Addis Ababa, the Government Plant Health department, the Vita office and Agrochemical retailers in Arba Minch.



*Tony Doyle, John Stafford, Tom Keogh and local market vendors at the potato market*

## Ambassador Sonya Hyland Inspects Vita's Programmes

Vita are part of an exciting Climate Smart Agriculture consortium project in Ethiopia funded by the Irish Embassy. The project aims to develop coping mechanisms for farming communities to deal with the reality of climate change.

The new Irish ambassador to Ethiopia, Sonya Hyland has recently conducted a five day tour of the different aspects of the project being carried out by the members. In Gama Gofa she visited Vita's work with mango farmers and a Co-op that is developing a supply of fruit for juice production. The ambassador also visited Vita's water point repair projects which in 2017 created sustainable access to water for over 20,000 people. Her last stop was an improved fuel efficient cook stove group that is part of providing 5,000 families with affordable cook stoves last year. The project provides a valuable learning platform for Vita and the other consortium members (Farm Africa, SOS Sahel and Gorta/Self Help Africa) who meet regularly to exchange information and experience.



*Ambassador Hyland visits our programmes*





## Meet Tesfai Ghebrehiwot From Vita Eritrea

Tesfai has worked with Vita Eritrea for over six years. He is Vita's Finance and Administration manager. He joined Vita after working as audit training manager and counterpart of audit expert in the National Audit Office of Eritrea. Before that he had worked in different capacities with the National Audit Office of Ethiopia, an oil company and an NGO as an authorized accountant.

Tesfai holds a master's degree in Accounting. Beyond finance and administration work, he has been involved in monitoring and follow-ups of projects carried out by Vita Eritrea. He is very pleased to see that the projects implemented resulted in improving the livelihood of communities. This gives him great satisfaction and impetus to work harder. He is glad that Vita has given him the opportunity to work with a team who works very hard to enhance the livelihoods of communities in the rural areas of his country.

Tesfai is married to Mihret Teferi and they are blessed with a boy and two girls and two grandchildren. His family is the source of his happiness. He loves reading in his spare time.



## The Women's Global Call For Climate Justice



The Women's Global Call for Climate Justice is a global campaign organized collectively by a group of regionally diverse women's rights and feminist organizations, brought together by the urgent need for just action on climate change. Since its launch, the Campaign has become a platform for hundreds of women's rights organizations and thousands of women activists and allies to demand climate justice.

For more information: [www.womenclimatejustice.org](http://www.womenclimatejustice.org)

## Call For Input To White Paper On International Development

In 2006 the Irish government produced its last White Paper on overseas aid in 2006 which was revised in 2012. Irish Aid are currently embarking on producing a new White Paper by the summer of this year. This will take on the new framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognise the changing realities of the world we live in today such as climate change and migration. Irish Aid are looking for submissions from all stakeholders which can be sent to: White Paper Submission, Irish Aid, Riverstone House, 23 - 27 Henry Street, Limerick, V94 R7YE.



## Contact Us

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## Long-time Supporters Visit Ethiopia

The Quinn family, who are long-time supporters of our work, visited some of our programmes in southern Ethiopia recently. It was a fantastic opportunity for both parents and children to see how rural Ethio-



pians live and how Vita's programmes work. The family immersed themselves fully into the experience. Our country staff as usual went above and beyond making it so memorable for all involved.

*From L-R: Akalu, Stephen, Kirsty, Nicole, Holly, Feargal, Noelle and Asfaw outside the Vita office.*



## Vita Is Growing

This month we are graced with a new member of staff – Emily Hosford who is our new programme officer. Emily will be taking over from Joanne who is on maternity leave. We want to wish Joanne all the best with her new member of the family .

## Our Partners

