

CHILD SURVIVAL IN ETHIOPIA



LOCATION

Ginchi Christian Brethren Student Centre, central Ethiopia.



PARTICIPANTS

30 mums and babies.



COST

£11,295 will support these families for a year.

“In my 12 years of experience as a Child Survival Implementer, every time a new mother joins, I see that poverty has affected her state of mind even more than her standard of living.”

These are the words of Eyerusalem. One of the mothers she ministers to in Ethiopia is Taitu. When Taitu and her husband had their first child, they couldn't feed themselves, let alone a third member of the family. Taitu sought help from the local church.

“All will be well” were the first words I heard from Eyerusalem” says Taitu, recalling her initial conversation about Child Survival support. Accepted into the Survival intervention, Taitu received medical assistance, nutritional support, and childcare training. Taitu says “No one else visited me, not even my family. When the Survival staff came to visit, I felt important. I also felt humbled. I came to know Jesus through them. My husband, Dereje, also gave his life to the Lord.” Today Taitu says that the first words that Eyerusalem spoke to her on the day she came for help at the church have come true. “All is now well” she says, “thanks to the commitment of the staff who invested themselves in us.”



Eyerusalem, is praying with Taitu's family during a home visit.

Sadly, the outcome is not the same for every mum living in poverty. A recent UN report revealed that every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth.ⁱ With 27% of Ethiopia's population living below the poverty line, this sadly means they are not excluded from this brutal mortality statistic.ⁱⁱ Here, every year, 22,000 women die due to childbirth complications – one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.ⁱⁱⁱ On top of this, the economic impact of COVID-19 increased food prices.^{iv} Ethiopia has also recently experienced the worst locust invasion in decades, which is significantly threatening food security.^{iv}

These young women living in poverty need support. Compassion is committed to equipping women to care for their children well and become economically self-sufficient. **Child Survival interventions provide vulnerable mothers with prenatal and postnatal healthcare, a health professional at the birth and support with nutrition. Another major component is income generation training.** The Ginchi Christian Brethren Student Centre wants to support mothers through a vital Child Survival intervention. Compassion only partner with local churches because churches know their community contexts. They show the love of Jesus, and provide a constant, stable presence.

This intervention will enable mothers living in poverty to give birth safely and take control of their future. This ensures the children get a better start in life, before they move into the sponsorship programme once they reach their first birthday.

ⁱ World Bank, *Poverty & Equity Brief Ethiopia*: datafiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/AM2020/Global_POVEQ_ETH.pdf

ⁱⁱ UNDP, *Human Development Indicators*: hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ETH

ⁱⁱⁱ National Library of Medicine, *Why Women in Ethiopia Give Birth at Home? A Systematic Review of Literature*: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8590518/

^{iv} World Bank, *World Bank in Ethiopia*: www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia/overview