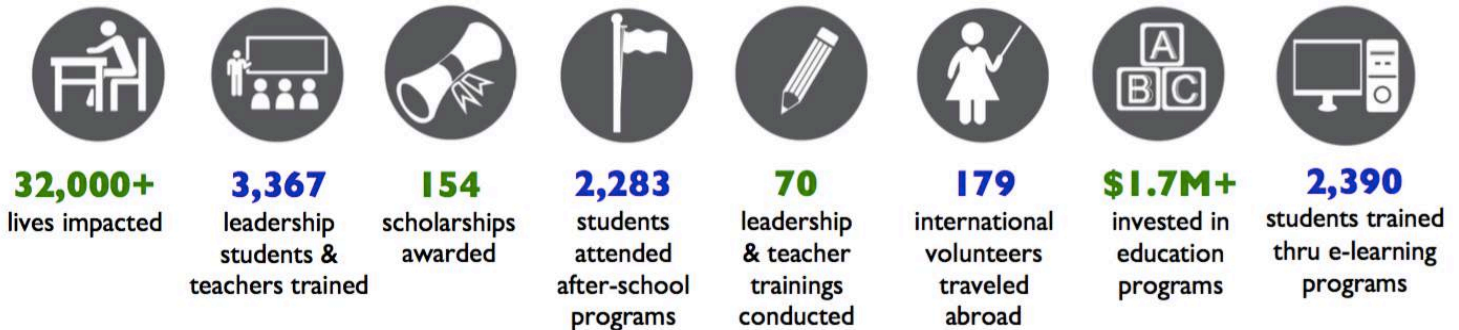


EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF YOUNG LEADERS



WHAT IS VISIONS?

Visions Global Empowerment (“Visions”) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles, CA that aims to change patterns of inequality by supporting educational initiatives for youth affected by conflict, poverty, and disability. We envision a world where all people have access to quality education, feel empowered, and are capable of participating as leaders in today’s society. Visions partners with local organizations & schools in building their capacity and in designing and implementing meaningful education & development programs that meet local needs.

WHERE DOES VISIONS WORK?

Visions currently serves communities in the following countries:

1. **Sri Lanka** (Northern & Eastern Provinces; since 2003)
2. **India** (states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, & Uttarakhand; since 2008)
3. **Ethiopia** (Amhara Region & Addis Ababa; since 2012)
4. **Nicaragua** (Matagalpa & Jinotega Districts; since 2017)



WHAT DOES VISIONS DO?



Worldwide, millions of children face immense daily hardships that prevent them from accessing a quality education or preparing themselves for a meaningful, educated, and independent life. Since 2003, we have labored tirelessly in creating educational and personal development opportunities that serve community needs and enable youth to improve their own lives and overall wellbeing. Our main efforts include:

1. **Leadership Program** (Sri Lanka & India)
2. **Capacity Building Program** (All countries)
3. **Deaf Education & Empowerment** (Ethiopia)
4. **e-Learning Program** (India & Nicaragua)
5. **Youth Guidance & Support** (India & Sri Lanka)
6. **Volunteer Programs** (All countries)

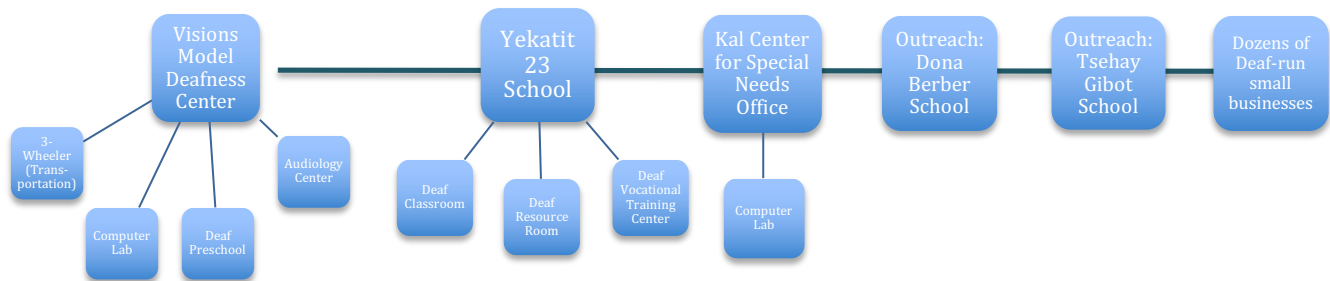
OVERVIEW OF DEAFNESS IN ETHIOPIA



With a staggering estimate of 1 – 2.5 million Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ethiopians, and only a handful of organizations and groups nationwide working to serve this demographic and promote their overall wellbeing, Visions sees a crucial opportunity to help build Deaf civil society. For the vast majority of Deaf Ethiopians, there are virtually no public services or formal opportunities for education, employment, or social inclusion & mobility. Very little is being done at present to organize or advocate for this community who suffer daily injustices, stigmatization, and exclusion.

BUILDING DEAF CIVIL SOCIETY IN BAHIR DAR

Since 2012, international teams of Visions volunteers have been engaging with our local colleagues in Ethiopia to help empower local leaders and change-makers to develop the necessary infrastructure, awareness, and programs to be able to improve the lives of Deaf Ethiopians nationally. Since then, we have taken great strides in developing the infrastructure in Bahir Dar to serve the Deaf community:



OVERVIEW OF THE VISIONS MODEL DEAFNESS CENTER (BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA)

Established in March 2015 in partnership with the Kal Center for Special Needs (www.kalcenter.org), the Visions Model Deafness Center is by far our biggest undertaking to-date. It aims to help empower the Deaf community by providing services in education, language (especially Ethiopian Sign Language) development, interpreting, jobs training, access to information & services, medical care, mentorship, early childhood education, public education & awareness-raising, and connection with other Deaf communities & the larger outside world.

The current list of major ongoing program activities and services we offer include all of the following:

- **Daily instruction and tutorial support** both during and after school hours for Deaf students in Grades 1-8 students at 3 public schools in Bahir Dar

WWW.VISIONSGLOBAL EMPOWERMENT.ORG

1621 Barry Avenue #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 90025



- In-class and after-school **interpreting services** for Deaf students in hearing-integrated classrooms (Grades 5+)
- **Preschool education** for Deaf children and children who have Deaf parents (ages 3-6)
- **Hearing Testing & Counseling** services and provision of hearing devices for those identified as potential beneficiaries, as well as introductory **speech services**

- **Community education**, awareness-raising, and outreach activities to reduce stigma and increase general understanding of Deafness

- **Livelihoods development** support for Deaf adults (ages 15-35)

- Creation of **public education materials**, including short films and promotional materials, and teacher training materials and supplies



- Regular weekly **instruction in Ethiopian Sign Language** for hearing schoolchildren, teachers, school staff, Bahir Dar University students, medical students & hospital staff, parents & family members of Deaf individuals, government representatives, and more



- **Social clubs & activities** for Deaf youth & adults, including Deaf circus & football club

- **Regular cultural exchanges and special programs with volunteers from the U.S. and other countries** (including 3 U.S. universities). To-date, 100+ foreign volunteers & visitors have joined us on the ground!

We hope you will consider joining us in our mission and help to both sustain our ongoing activities, as well as push forward in reaching many, many more deserving individuals who are Deaf!



WWW.VISIONSGLOBALEMPowerMENT.ORG

1621 Barry Avenue #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 90025