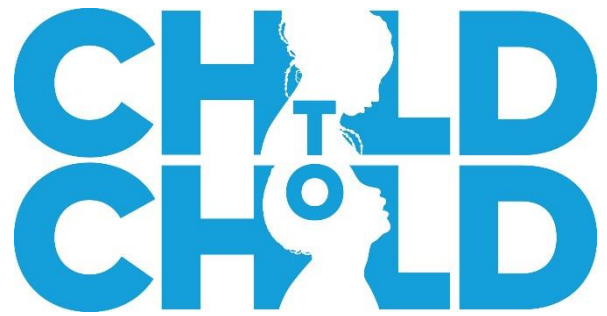


## Report: Ethiopia Visit February 2018, Tricia Young (Director) & Susan Durston (Trustee)



### Executive summary

Child to Child's early learning programme Getting Ready for School (GRS) is part of one of the four pillars of Ethiopia's national framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). After the initial pilot, it has been taken to scale across several regions by the Ethiopian government, Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) and UNICEF – Child to Child has not been involved. In the Tigray region, GRS was scaled up to all 1800 schools, mostly without financial support. In Benishangul, GRS is widely implemented in refugee camps and IDP settings, and in 147 schools.

Tricia and Susan visited several sites where they saw the benefits of the programme:

- GRS has changed attitudes towards children and raised awareness of the importance of early learning
- The programme has become embedded within communities, because it is easily accessible, uses local languages and is culturally embedded
- The programme doesn't place a burden on the school system
- The programme successfully addresses inequalities
- Benefits for Young Facilitators (YF): YF performs better in school and gets empowered; YF motivated to stay in school and work hard, and girls focus on their education; YF receives recognition within community and becomes role models to younger children
- Benefits for Young Learners (YL): greater retention; reduced drop out; increased enrolment

Communities involved also reported on challenges concerning the programme:

- There is almost no budget for GRS
- There is a lack of resources
- Teachers are less involved than originally envisioned and need more training
- There are concerns over quality control of the programme
- More parental awareness is needed of the importance of early learning, education in general and education for girls

Possible next steps include:

- Develop an implementation plan / national strategy
- Adapt model to different settings (such as camps)
- Conduct a study into the longitudinal impact of the programme on YFs
- Organise a workshop for UNICEF on GRS/CtC
- Collaborate with REBs

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