

## Medical Outreach Projects (MOP): Cardiac.

The Medical Outreach Projects aim to help build the capacity and scope of Ethiopian health services to prevent, assess and treat children and others in their communities with various health conditions – and especially those living in rural areas and those who are really poor, as these are the ones who usually miss out on adequate health care. The projects include building a health post in a very remote area (2 days walk from the closest road), funding a prosthetic outreach clinic, assisting children with sight impairment to access treatment, and raising funds for equipment and outreach screening of children with heart disease in the Bonga region through Jimma University Hospital.

One of the main causes of heart disease in children in Ethiopia is Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD). This starts from rheumatic fever, which usually occurs in children aged 5-15 years old (92% of cases occur before 18 years) and if rheumatic fever is treated with antibiotic treatment the heart is not affected. However if not treated, those with RHD develop heart failure in their teens or early twenties, and the only way to fix this is through open heart surgery to replace or repair damaged heart valves. A study done in collaboration with Jimma University shows **around 1.9% of school children have RHD!!** So this is a significant health problem for the region.

Despite the importance of early assessment and treatment, many children *never* see a doctor. In this region of Ethiopia there is only one doctor for every 858,600 people. The staff in rural health services are not always aware of how best to prevent, assess and treat RHD. WFA is funding a training and screening campaign by the Jimma Cardiac Clinic for Bonga and surrounding health services. A team will go to Bonga and train 23-25 health workers from the area, whilst screening **2000 school children from Bonga and 3 schools from villages around Bonga**. This will be a lifesaving intervention for those children with RHD (if this is 1.9% of school children, then we anticipate **38 of these children** will have RHD!!), and a potentially lifesaving preventative measure for so, so many more children. But best of all, because the health workers will be trained through this process, they will be able to recognise and appropriately treat or refer any child coming to their clinic after this. So the results are long and far reaching.

If you would like to help with the **cardiac outreach project** please donate (**donations are tax deductible**) to WFA labelling your donation as the:  
**Medical Outreach Project -cardiac' (MOP-C).**

Donations can be made by:

- Sending a cheque made out to World Families Australia and post to PO Box 11, Hope Valley 5090 with a note attached saying it is for **Medical Outreach Project-cardiac' (MOP-C)** with your NAME and ADDRESS to get a receipt as donations/sponsorships are tax deductible.
  - Internet transfer with the details **Medical Outreach Project-cardiac' (MOP-C)**. If paying by internet, put your name and at the same time EMAIL to the WFA office [wfafinance@bigpond.com](mailto:wfafinance@bigpond.com); your postal address for a receipt for the donation.  
World Families Australia Sponsorship Account
  - Paypal on the website. Use the "Donation" button
- BSB number: 105 152  
Account number 035 86 7740  
Bank: Bank SA