

Ethiopia

IOCC began working in Ethiopia in 2001, partnering closely with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC). In the years since, IOCC has also worked with international and local NGOs in Ethiopia, as well as the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture.

Emergency Response



Since 2011, IOCC has been providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, drought affected communities, as well as internally displaced people in Ethiopia.

In 2024, IOCC deployed two Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams which provided essential primary healthcare services to 61,096 vulnerable individuals. The teams, consisting of a medical officer, nurse, midwife, and mental health counselor, delivered medical consultations, mental health support, antenatal care, vaccinations, and nutritional supplementation. Key achievements include 21,334 medical consultations, 1,321 mental health screenings, iron folate supplementation for 1,055 pregnant women, Vitamin A supplementation for 8,043 children, and parasitic treatment for 4,548 children. These efforts significantly improved access to healthcare in conflict-affected, hard-to-reach communities.

In addition to health services, IOCC distributed multipurpose cash to 1,298 vulnerable households across Dega Damot, Quarit, Jabi Tehnan,

and Debre Markos. The cash assistance targeted individuals with disabilities, chronic illnesses, internally displaced people (IDPs), and other highly vulnerable community members. The program alleviated immediate hardships, allowing families to meet essential needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare. This initiative fostered greater resilience, social cohesion, and empowerment among the targeted populations.

In 2023, in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Amhara region, IOCC received funding from the UNOCHA Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund to implement an emergency nutrition, health, and cash assistance project in the East and West Gojjam Zones. The project primarily focuses on addressing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), diagnosing 2,276 children and linking 2,219 to outpatient therapeutic feeding services. Additionally, 57 children with complications received critical stabilization care. These interventions played a crucial role in reducing malnutrition rates, enhancing community health systems, and improving health outcomes for affected children.

Sustainable Livelihoods | Women Empowerment

The "Empowering Women to Fight Against Poverty in Woldia Town" two-year project, launched in March 2023 that ran through December 2024, was implemented by IOCC with funding from the Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA. This initiative targets the severe impact of conflict, drought, and socioeconomic inequalities on vulnerable populations, particularly women and adolescent girls, in Woldia Town, located in the North Wollo Zone of the Amhara Region, Ethiopia. These challenges have disproportionately affected women, limiting their ability to contribute economically and socially. The project's core objective is to improve the livelihoods, economic stability, and psychosocial well-being of women and girls in a post-conflict environment, fostering greater gender equality and empowerment.

The project's approach is centered around three key pillars: skills training, financial support, and psychosocial assistance. In the first phase, 564 women participated in comprehensive training programs designed to enhance their economic opportunities. Of these, 240 women received soft skills training, while 324 women and girls participated in hard skills training tailored to market demands. To further empower participants, each woman was provided with a small start-up capital to establish small-scale income-generating activities. Additionally, 20 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were established, creating a platform for women to pool resources, collaborate on business ventures, and strengthen community resilience. These groups have become vital in supporting women's economic independence and social cohesion.

Psychosocial support has also been a critical aspect of the project, recognizing the trauma and emotional challenges faced by many women in conflict-affected regions. IOCC organized 16 community meetings, reaching 450 women, to foster solidarity and offer emotional support. Specialized training sessions were held to equip participants with strategies to cope with the psychological impacts of gender-based violence, displacement, and other forms of trauma. These efforts are integral to improving women's mental well-being and promoting recovery, as well as advancing gender equality within the community.



As the project concluded in December 2024, a sustainability plan was developed to ensure that its impact endures. This includes strengthening the SHGs, building vocational training networks, and ensuring continued psychosocial support through local partnerships. The project also emphasizes the importance of engaging local stakeholders and authorities to ensure the longevity of these initiatives.

The story of Kidist Mengistu, a single mother who transformed her life through beauty salon training supported by IOCC, illustrates the transformative power of these programs. Kidist's success is a powerful reminder that with the right opportunities, women can break the cycle of poverty and inspire future generations. Through this project, IOCC, with the support of Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA, is helping to create a more resilient, empowered, and equal society for the women of Woldia.

Health



Empowering community leaders with the knowledge and tools to drive behavioral change in the prevention and treatment of podoconiosis, fostering healthier futures for all. Photo by Abebe Kelemework, IOCC Project Coordinator

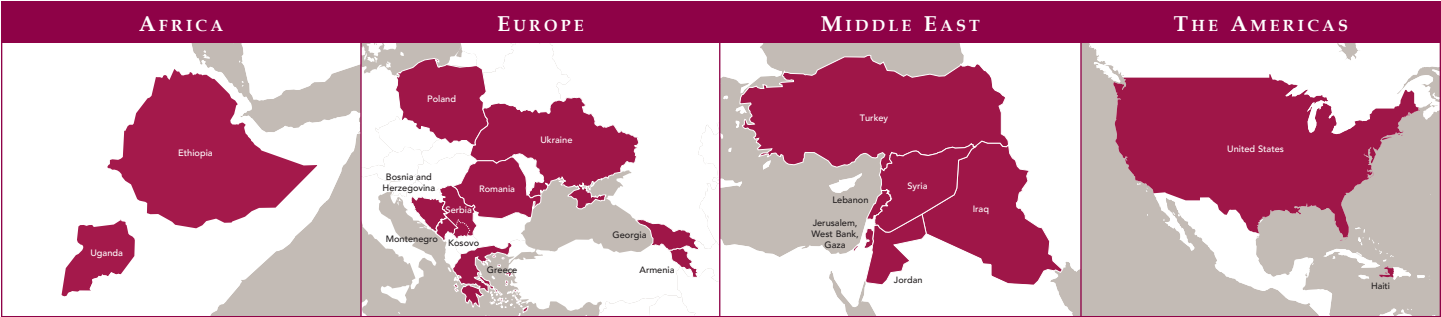
In 2023, with funds from Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, IOCC started a four-year expansion of its podoconiosis prevention and treatment program in eight districts of the Amhara region.

Since 2010, IOCC has worked closely with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and regional health bureaus on the prevention and treatment of podocooniosis (nonfilarial elephantiasis, a disfiguring, disabling neglected tropical disease), with the goal of eliminating the disease in Ethiopia. Community interventions include education on the importance of shoe-wearing, self-care methods, and hygiene; and through a private partnership, over 850,000 primary-school children received shoes. The projects prioritize training for health professionals and patients in podoconiosis prevention and treatment. Thus far, over 85,000 Ethiopians have received treatment and knowledge on disease management; over a million have received awareness education through

community events and public campaigns; and more than 1,400 midlevel government healthcare workers have been trained on disease identification, management, and related issues. 72 individuals (each group 24) received soap production skills training in different 3 podo endemic areas , and started liquid soap production for podo patients. IOCC has also supported the treatment of lymphatic filariasis and provided integrated trachoma programming.

In collaboration with EOC-DICAC, IOCC implemented a \$15.4 million program funded by USAID/PEPFAR on HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness, care, and support in 153 districts throughout the country. IOCC also implemented a five-year, USAID-funded HIV/AIDS prevention program focused on stemming mother-to-child transmission, in collaboration with IntraHealth in 57 health center coverage areas. The program reached over 12 million Ethiopian men and women with general HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness messages.

Active Worldwide Programs



- Ethiopia
 - Uganda
- Armenia
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Georgia
 - Greece
 - Montenegro
 - Poland
 - Romania
 - Serbia including Kosovo
 - Ukraine
- Iraq
 - Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
 - Jordan
 - Lebanon
 - Syria
 - Turkey
- Haiti
 - United States



Emergency Preparedness & Response	110,270
Sustainable Livelihoods	26,290
Food Security & Agriculture	108,902
Health	742,444
Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	159,618

IN 2024, IOCC SERVED 1,147,524 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$858 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.