

Empowering Education: CEYD's Impact in Kassala & Wad-Sharefy Schools in Eastern Sudan



Canadian Eritrean Youth Development

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Highlights

Kassala and Wad-Sharefy Schools

1. Kassala Schools:

- Established in 1977.
- Operates in Sudanese schools after regular school hours.
- Total student enrollment: 512.
- Total staff: 33.
- Current operating budget:
 - \$4,810 USD per month
 - \$57,720 USD annually.
- Required operating budget:
 - \$9,620 USD per month
 - \$115,440 USD annually.

2. Wad-Sharefy School:

- Established in 1984.
- Operates in its own building with two shifts:
 - Morning shift: Grades 4 to 8.
 - Afternoon shift: Grades 1 to 3.
- Total student enrollment: 707.
- Total staff: 23.
- Current operating budget:
 - \$2,350 USD per month
 - \$28,200 USD annually.
- Required operating budget:
 - \$4,700 USD per month
 - \$56,400 USD annually.

Combined Statistics for Both Schools:

- Total number of students: 1,219.
- Current combined operating budget:
 - \$85,920 USD annually.
- Required combined operating budget:
 - \$171,840 USD annually.

All donations are tax-deductible.

To donate

Online: ceyd.ca

E-transfer: donate@ceyd.ca

Current Efforts and Support

Under the leadership of Father Ghebray Bidimariam, the school administration has begun reaching out to former students worldwide for financial support. Many alumni have responded positively, helping to cover salaries and fees for a few months. This initiative was launched to address the severe financial crisis, particularly the three months of overdue salaries. While the support from former students has been encouraging, the school recognizes the need for long-term, sustainable funding from stakeholders. Since the 2022 school year, the Canadian Eritrean Youth Development organization has also stepped in to help prevent the schools from closing.

Impact and Importance

In the 2023 academic year, the schools educated over 500 students (512 in total), serving not only Eritrean refugees but also students from Indian, Ethiopian, Sudanese, South Sudanese, and Somali communities. Beyond providing education, the schools offer all refugees a sense of belonging and identity. For many, it is the only source of hope and education, and its closure would have a devastating impact on their future.

As the only school serving refugees in the area, its continuation is vital for sustaining education and securing the futures of these students. The school has played a key role in enabling post-secondary opportunities for hundreds of alumni, breaking the cycle of poverty. Notably, the school has a high representation of female students, a significant achievement given the additional challenges girls face in accessing education.





Building

The school does not have its building. However, through the Ministry of Education, the Sudanese government has granted permission to use public school facilities outside of regular hours, allowing classes to be held in the afternoons from 12 pm to 4:30 pm. In exchange, the school provides financial incentives, maintains the facilities annually, purchases furniture, and helps cover certain obligations, including electricity and water bills.

There are three schools, each serving a different educational stage:

1. **Elementary Schools:** Salah Al-Din School.
2. **Junior School:** Khadija Bint Khuwaylid School.
3. **Secondary school:** Tariq bin Ziyad School.



Curriculum

The school teaches the Sudanese curriculum in English and allows all students to take the Sudanese Secondary Examination Certificates, which enables them to apply to universities in Sudan.

Student Statistics for the Three Schools

Elementary School

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
Preliminary	25	24	49
One	14	14	28
Two	20	15	35
Three	18	10	28
Four	11	10	21
Five	16	15	31
Total	104	88	192

Junior School

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
Six	20	20	40
Seven	18	20	38
Eight	18	20	38
Nine	18	18	36
Total	74	78	152

Secondary

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
10	38	20	58
11 Science	15	14	29
11 Art	20	14	34
12 Science	11	12	23
12 Art	11	13	24
Total	87	73	168

Number of Teachers

School	Number of Teachers
Elementary	9
Junior	7
Secondary	17
Total	33

Total number of students at Kassala Schools is 512.

Wad-Sharefey Refugee School

History and Background

Established in 1984, Wad-Sharefey Refugee School initially operated out of makeshift tents until permanent buildings were constructed in 1988, with support from charitable groups in the Netherlands. In 2005, the late Father Marino Haile of Milano further modernized the school. Since October 2005, the Swiss charity Association

Suisse Enfance-Erythree (ASEE), based in Geneva, has funded the school's major expenses. The school is administered by the Eritrean Red Cross-Crescent Society (ERCCS), which closely monitors the school's operations and the needs of refugees in Eastern Sudan.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war and unrest in Sudan, the cost of living has surged, making it difficult for ASEE to meet the school's financial needs. As a result, since the 2023 school year, the Canadian Eritrean Youth Development organization has stepped in to support the school and prevent its imminent closure.

Curriculum

For many years, the school has followed the Eritrean curriculum, with Arabic, Tigrinya, and English as the mediums of instruction. Until 2011, there were separate classes for Arabic and Tigrinya speakers. However, since 2012, when enrollment in Tigrinya classes decreased, all subjects have been taught in Arabic, with Tigrinya remaining a compulsory subject. The curriculum includes Eritrean history, geography, and other social sciences adapted to the Eritrean context.



Student Statistics

Elementary and Junior School

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
One A	30	37	67
One B	32	33	65
Two A	29	37	66
Two B	27	31	58
Three A	21	40	61
Three B	22	29	51
Four A	23	47	70
Four B	22	38	60
Five	41	37	78
Six	32	33	65
Total	279	362	641

Junior School

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
Seven	26	22	48
Eight	10	18	28
Total	36	40	76

Number of teachers

School	Number of Teachers
Elementary / Afternoon Gr 1 to 3	8
Junior and Elementary / Morning Gr 4 to 8	13
Custodian and Guard	2
Total	23

Total number of students at Wad-Sharefey school is 707.